Solo Leveling
10
DUBU
(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Story by
CHUGONG
Adapted by
h-goon

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CHARACTERS

Jinwoo Sung

S-rank Hunter,
Ahjin Guild

Jinho Yoo

D-rank Hunter,
Ahjin Guild

Thomas Andre

S-rank Hunter,
Scavenger Guild

Adam White

Senior Agent of Hunter
Command Center of the United
States of America

Dongsoo Hwang

S-rank Hunter,
Scavenger Guild

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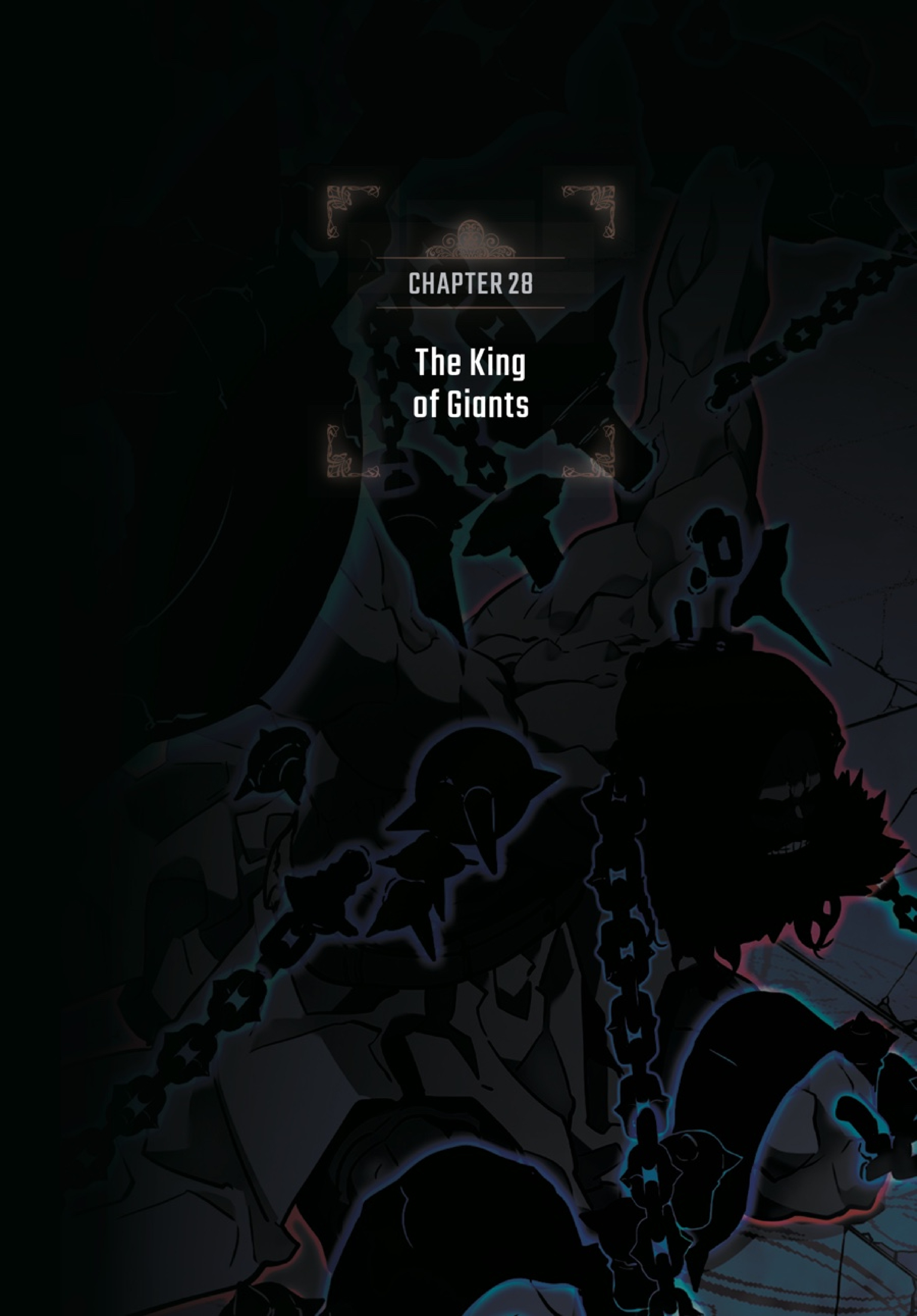
Solo Leveling

CHAPTER 28

The King of Giants



Solo Leveling

<The city of Nagoya has been retaken!>
<A giant's corpse has been discovered in Nakatsugawa!>
<The city of Shizuoka has been reclaimed!>
<Takayama and Nagano as well...!>
<How is this possible...?>
GOTO WAS RIGHT.
I'VE SEEN THOSE EYES BEFORE— AT THE AIRPORT.

OUT OF THE COUNTLESS HUNTERS I'VE COME ACROSS...
...HIS POWER...
...IS ON ANOTHER LEVEL.

<Nice to meet you.>
<Considering the urgency of the situation, allow me to get to the point.>
<Giants are making their way to Osaka as we speak.>
<Please, focus your efforts on defending Osaka.>
<Despite his power, there's no way he can defeat all the giants.>
<While he buys us some time, we need to negotiate with other countries.>

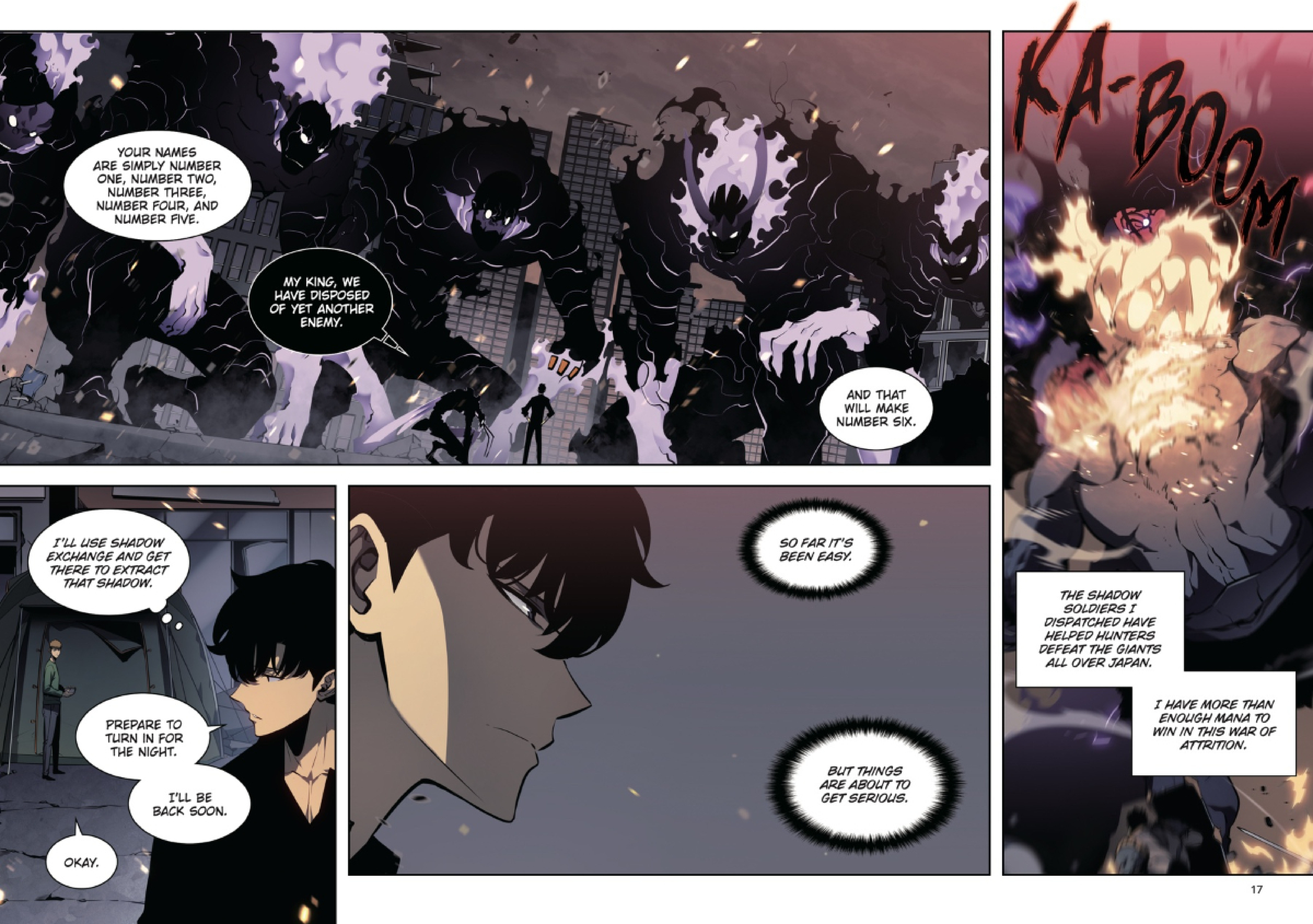
NO, THANK YOU.
<Th-then what are you planning to do...?>

<I had a suspicion, but...>

<...he really is planning to confront the giants by himself!>
<Hunter Sung is doing...>

<...what I had planned to do to Korea!>

HMM...
SO...


YOUR NAMES ARE SIMPLY NUMBER ONE, NUMBER TWO, NUMBER THREE, NUMBER FOUR, AND NUMBER FIVE.
MY KING, WE HAVE DISPOSED OF YET ANOTHER ENEMY.
AND THAT WILL MAKE NUMBER SIX.
KA-BOOM
I'LL USE SHADOW EXCHANGE AND GET THERE TO EXTRACT THAT SHADOW.
PREPARE TO TURN IN FOR THE NIGHT.
I'LL BE BACK SOON.
OKAY.
SO FAR IT'S BEEN EASY.
BUT THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET SERIOUS.
THE SHADOW SOLDIERS I DISPATCHED HAVE HELPED HUNTERS DEFEAT THE GIANTS ALL OVER JAPAN.
I HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH MANA TO WIN IN THIS WAR OF ATTRITION.

EVEN GIANTS HAVE LIMITED STAMINA—THEY HAD NO CHANCE OF WINNING AGAINST SHADOW SOLDIERS WHO CAN REGENERATE RIGHT AFTER THEY'RE DESTROYED.

THE ISSUE IS THE OTHER DUNGEON BREAKS THAT KEEP POPPING UP ALL OVER JAPAN.
BECAUSE OF ALL THE LOW-LEVEL MAGIC BEASTS FLOODING INTO THE CITIES, EVACUATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE WHILE THE FIGHTING RAGES ON.

IT'S NIGHT SEVEN OF THE DUNGEON BREAK.

TMP
TMP
THE CITY IS IN RUINS, BOSS.
YEAH.
HELLO, HUNTER SUNG.
AH YES.
MS. HANEKAWA, THERE AREN'T ANY OTHER HUNTERS HERE, RIGHT?
YES, I'M THE ONLY REMAINING PERSON IN TOKYO.

WE CAN'T EVEN GAUGE HOW MUCH DAMAGE TOKYO HAS SUFFERED.
GIANTS HAVE SCATTERED FROM HERE AND ALL THROUGHOUT JAPAN.
SIXTEEN S-RANK HUNTERS, INCLUDING YOU, HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH THIS SITUATION.
SIX FROM JAPAN, TWO FROM CHINA, THREE FROM CANADA, TWO FROM INDIA, ONE FROM RUSSIA, AND ONE FROM ENGLAND.
THEY'RE DIVIDED INTO SIX GROUPS BASED ON THE GUILDS THEY BELONG TO.
AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, S-RANK CASUALTIES INCLUDE YURI ORLOV FROM RUSSIA...
...HANJAWA GOKI FROM DARK SPIRIT GUILD, AND LUCAS HOIL FROM CANADA.
THESE GIANTS HAVE PROVEN EVEN MORE DIFFICULT THAN A-RANK GATE BOSSES, AS THEY RARELY MAKE A MOVE ALONE.

IF THREE S-RANKS ARE DEAD, THERE MUST BE A SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF A-RANKS AND LOWER...
A TOTAL OF 31 GIANT-TYPE MAGIC BEASTS HAVE ESCAPED FROM THE GATE...
...AND ONE OF THEM IS CROSSING THE OCEAN TOWARD CHINA.

WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MANPOWER TO DEFEND THE WHOLE COUNTRY, BUT...
...THANKS TO YOU, MOST OF THE GIANTS HAVE BEEN DEFEATED.
YOUR SHADOW ARMY AND OTHER HUNTERS ARE HANDLING THE REMAINING GIANTS.

I SEE.
THEN...

...THAT LEAVES ONE.
HOWEVER...

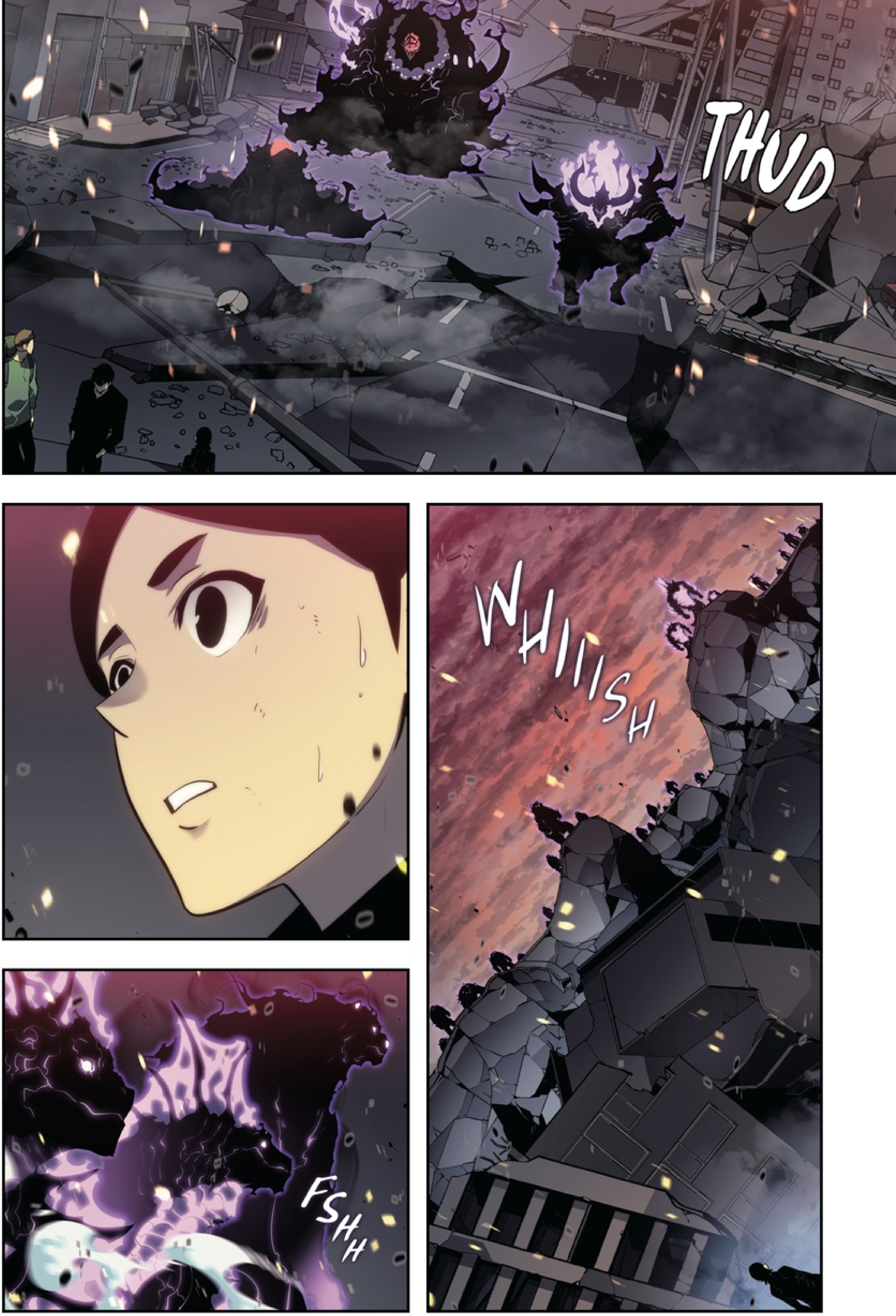
...THIS LOOKS FAMILIAR.
WHERE HAVE I SEEN THIS BEFORE?
THIS DEVASTATED CITY ISN'T ON FIRE...
...BUT IT LOOKS JUST LIKE THE DEMON'S CASTLE.
IF THE RUINS WITHIN THE DEMON'S CASTLE WERE SOME KIND OF WARNING...
...WHAT WAS THE ARCHITECT TRYING TO IMPLY?

THE ARCHITECT IS ALREADY DEAD AND GONE...
...AND SINCE I HAVEN'T HAD ANY CONTACT WITH HIM SINCE, I'M PRETTY SURE THAT WAS HIS ACTUAL BODY.
WELL, IF THE DEMON'S CASTLE WAS A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME...
...I JUST HAVE TO STOP IT. THAT'S WHY I'VE OBTAINED THIS POWER.
CLENCH
AFTER ALL, I'VE GOTTEN THIS FAR BY CONSTANTLY PURSUING STRENGTH TO AVOID BEING POWERLESS IN FRONT OF THOSE WHO ARE STRONGER.
LET'S BEGIN. I HAVE EVERYONE.
PARDON? THE OTHER HUNTERS HAVEN'T ARRI—
YES.
THE GANG'S ALL HERE.

SHUNK
<Rrragh... What a pain!>
WHUMP
<On the bright side, we got rid of all of them.>

<I know, but...!>
<We could barely lay a finger on those giants, but those things made it look easy.>
<And they were up and off for Tokyo even before the giants' last breath.>
<I feel like...>
CLENCH
<...they're expecting us to tidy up after them.>
<So annoying. Freaking minions.>

TMP TMP
TMP
WHOOOSH


THUD
WHIIIISH
FSHH

DU-
DUN

ZOOOM

WHUD
THAT'S EVERYONE.
YOU ALL DID WELL.
THANK YOU, SIRE.

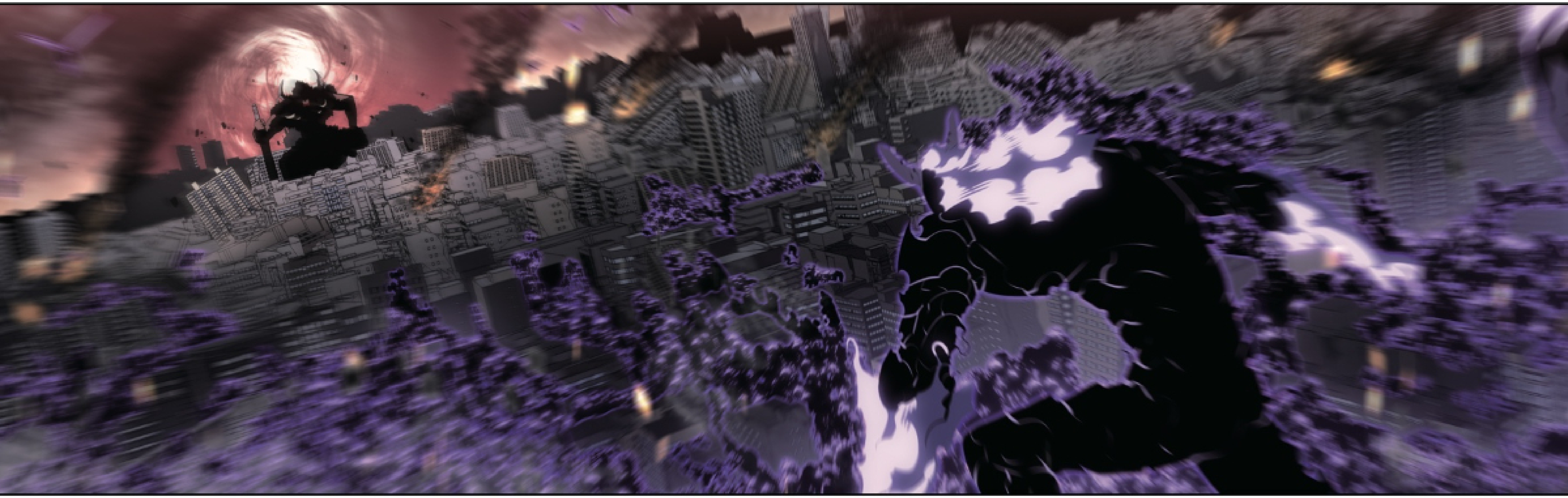
JINHO, YOU AND MS. HANEKAWA STAY BACK.
ROGER THAT.
TMP
TMP
NOW...
COME FORTH.
SHOOOOM

SOLDIERS.

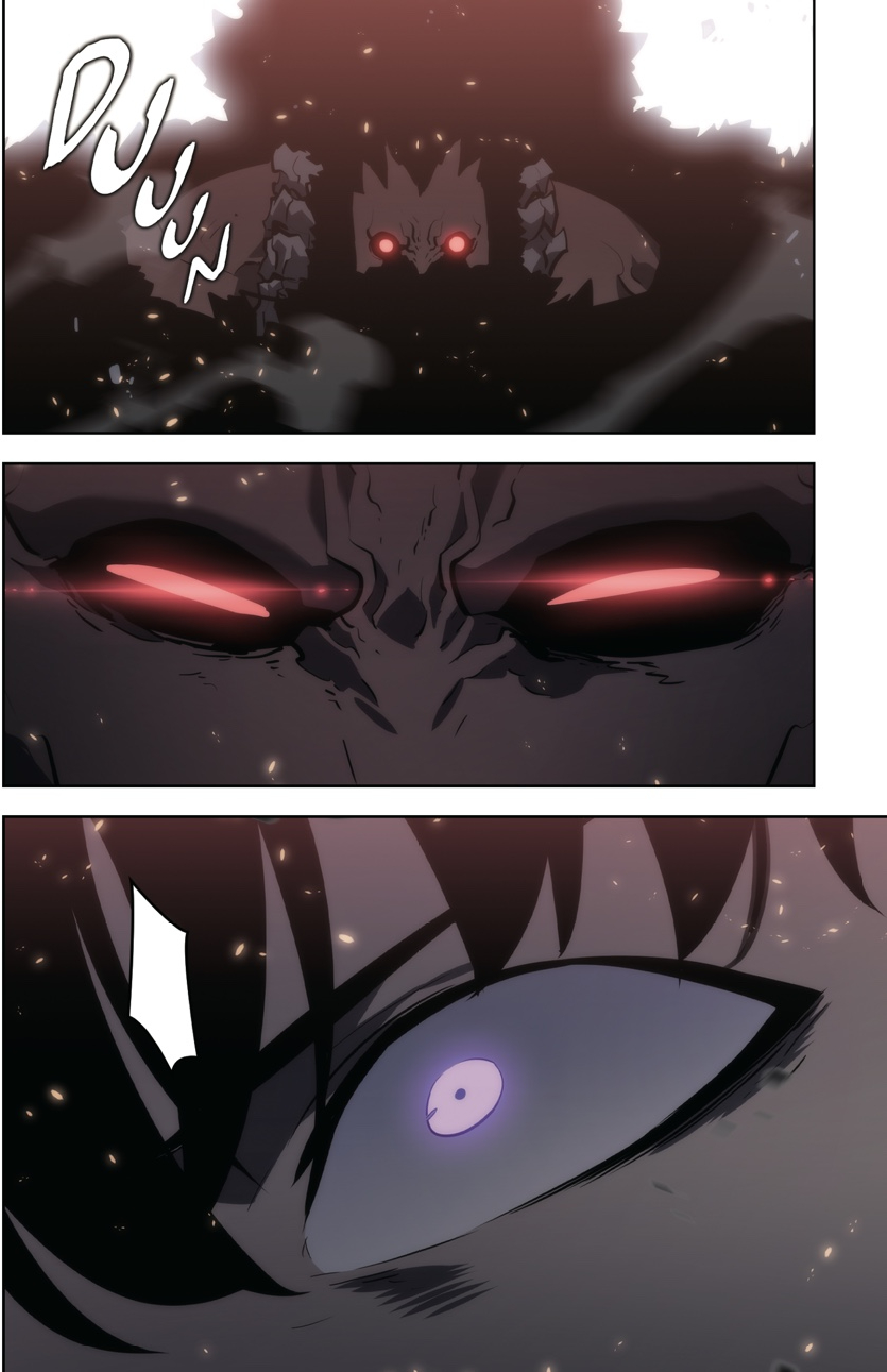
SHWF
ADVANCE!

SKRAAAH!

RUMBLE
RUMBLE



RRRUMBLE
RRRUMBLE


DUUUN

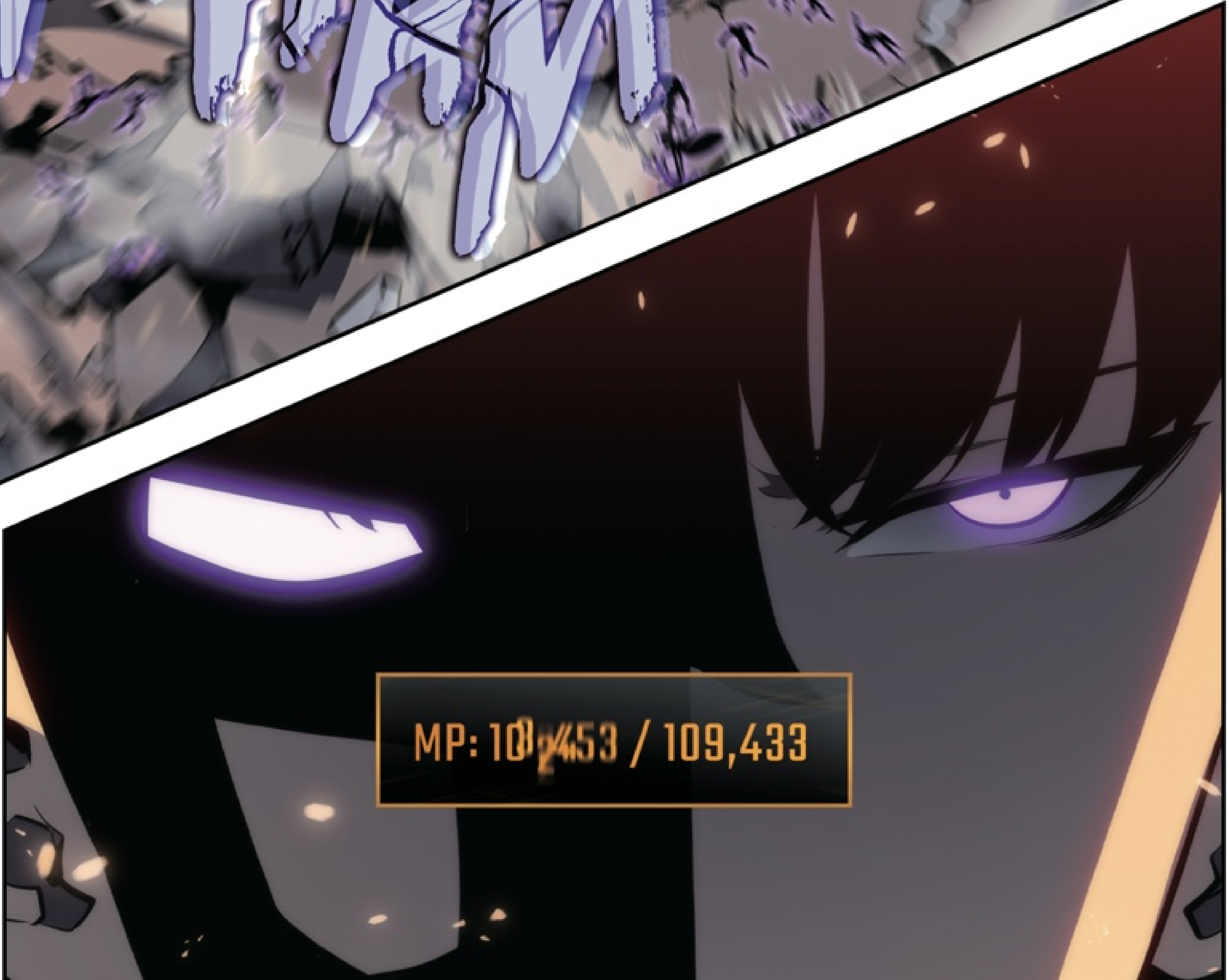
SLASH
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
DASH

NOW THAT'S POWER.
WITH ONLY ONE STRIKE, MORE THAN HALF MY SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED.
THAT CREATURE IS ENORMOUS.
THE EVIL MAGIC EMANATING FROM THAT BASTARD ALMOST SCARED ME AWAY.
THIS ANNOYS ME.
HOW DOES A CREATURE LIKE THAT EVEN EXIST?
WELL, THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO DEAL WITH ANNOYANCE.
FWOOM
RUN AWAY FROM THE CAUSE AND FORGET ABOUT IT...

...OR GET RID OF THE CAUSE COMPLETELY.
WHOOSH
KRAK

WHOOSH
FSHHH
CRUNCH
SKITTER
MUNCH
GNAW
GNAW
SKITTER
STOMP

SKRAH!
SHF
NOT YET.
I EXPECTED THIS MUCH.
MY MANA IS STILL OKAY. I NEED TO PUSH THAT MAGIC BEAST SOME MORE TO FIND ITS WEAKNESS.

WHAM

MP: 10 ,453 / 109,433

SLASH
MP: / 109,433
SHUNK
KA-POW
BAM BOOM BAM
MP: / 109,433

THE GIANT IS ENCASED IN AN ARMOR-LIKE LAYER OF MANA.
THAT'S WHY IT'S NOT BOTHERING TO DEFEND ITSELF.
IT MUST BE PRETTY CONFIDENT.
HOWEVER...
...THERE WAS ONE INSTANCE WHERE IT ACTED IN SELF-DEFENSE.
KAISEL.
FWAP

LET'S GO!
WHOOSH
SHP

ZZZZZZT
WHOOSH
SLASH

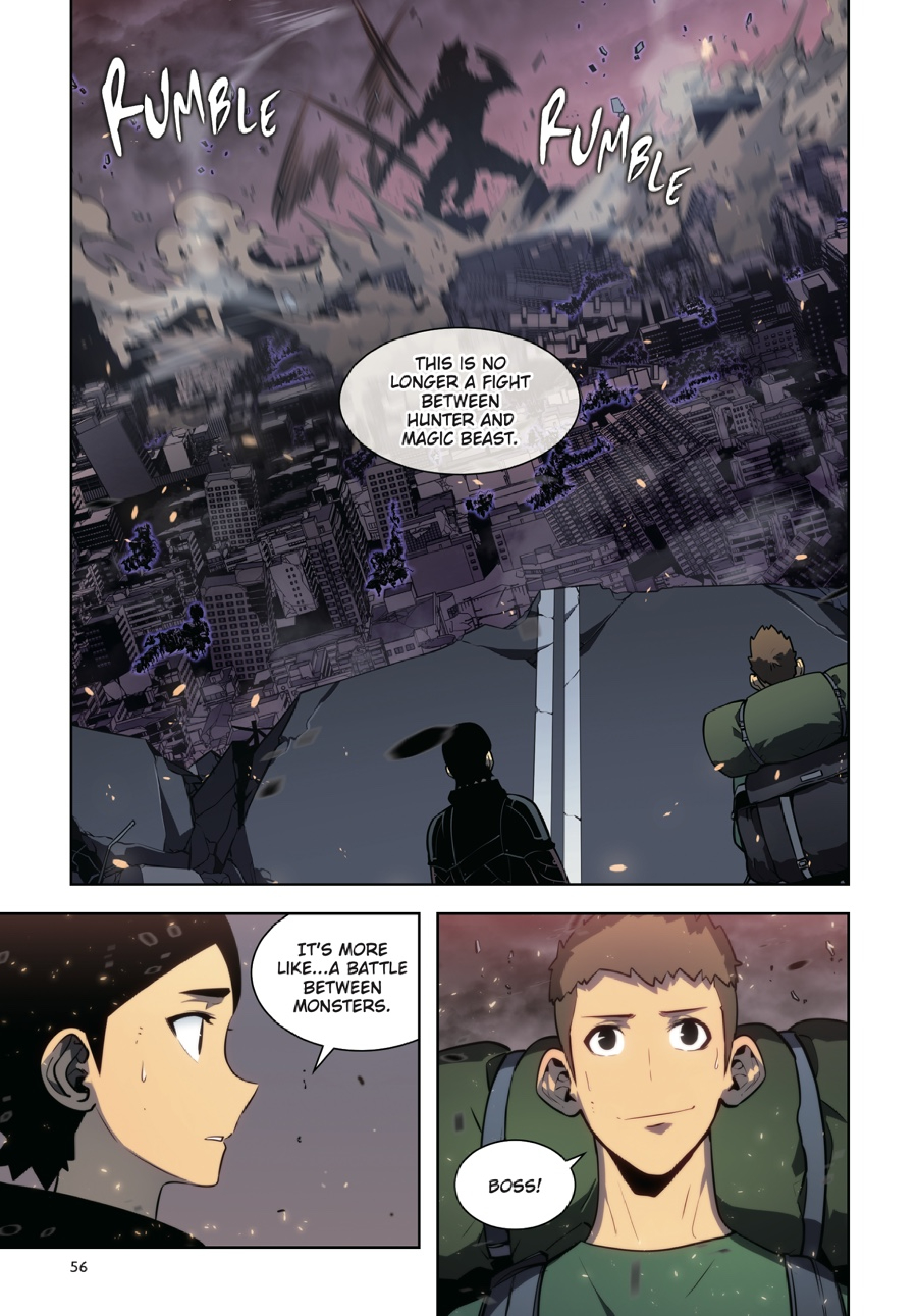
KA-
BOOM
I WAS RIGHT!
!!
WHISH

SLAM
ZZZT
DASH

KABLAM
ZZZZT
FLASH
!
FLASH

FLASH
TMP
IT'S WORKING!
SHF
WAAASH

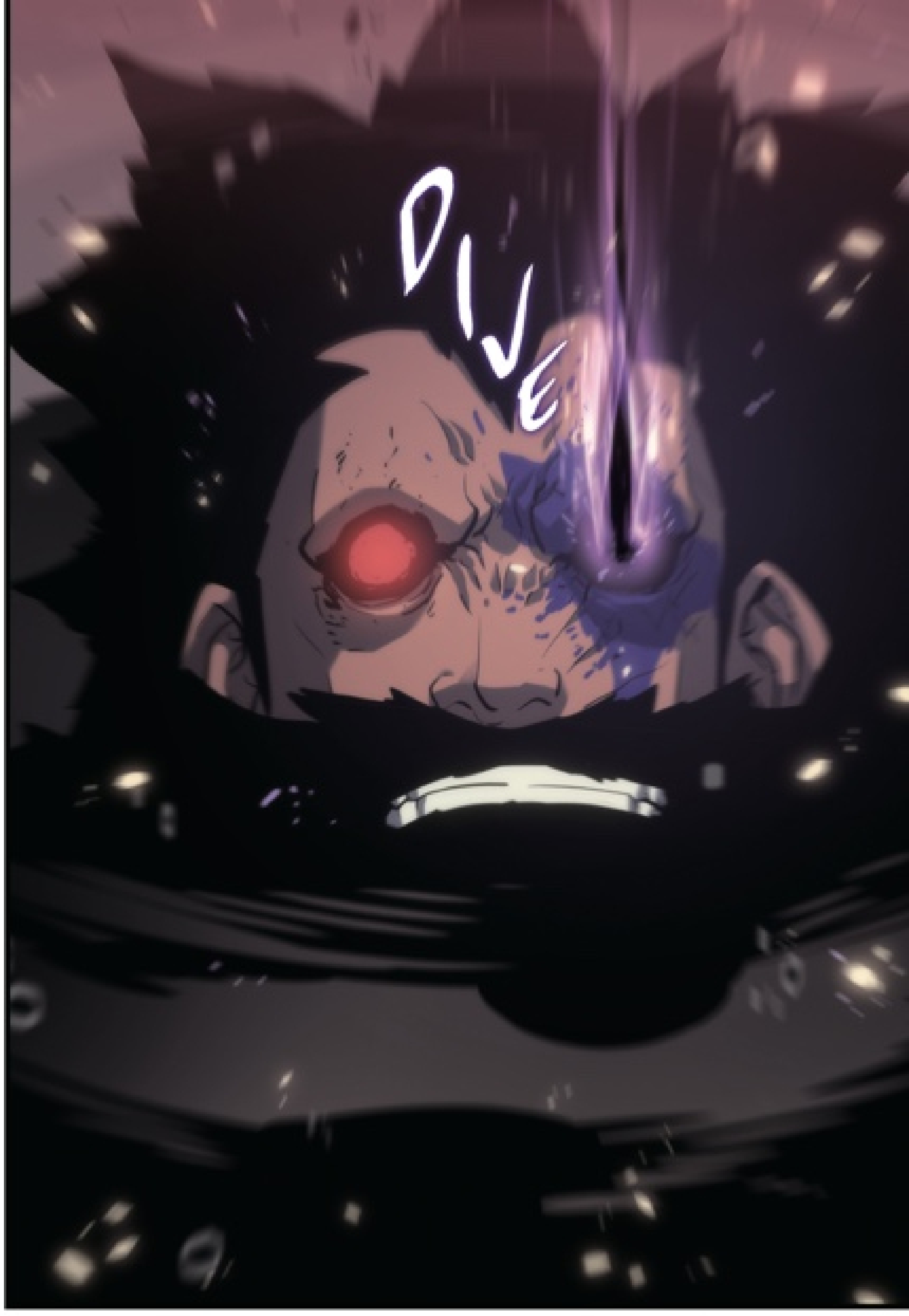
RULER'S AUTHORITY.
VMM
KRAK


RUMBLE
RUMBLE
THIS IS NO LONGER A FIGHT BETWEEN HUNTER AND MAGIC BEAST.
IT'S MORE LIKE...A BATTLE BETWEEN MONSTERS.
BOSS!

VMMM
MUTILA-
TION.

SLASH
BERU!
SPLURT
GUSH

AS YOU WISH, SIRE!


DIVE

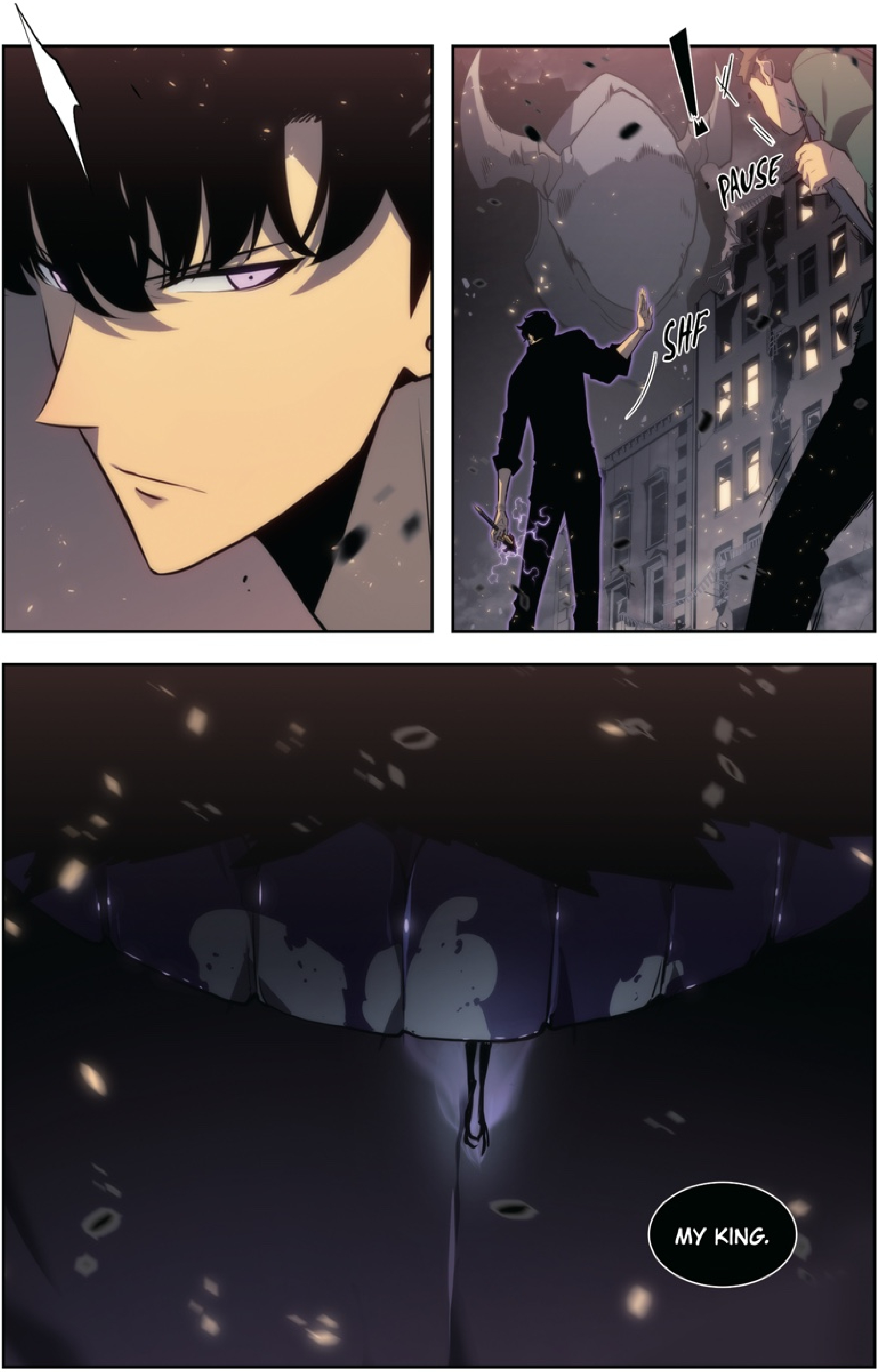
[Skill: Mutilation] has been activated.
[Skill: Mutilation] has been activated.

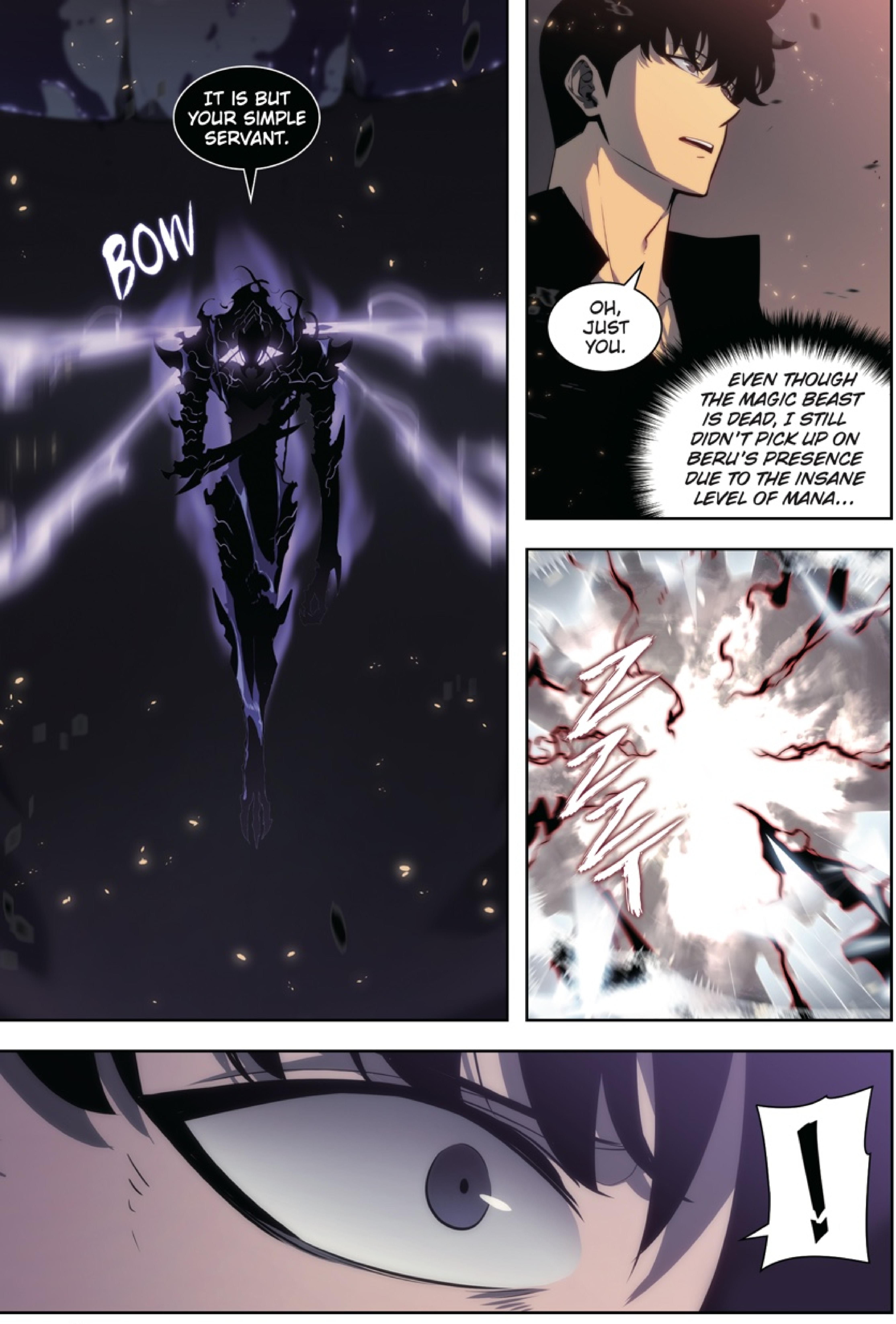
[Skill: Mutilation] has been activated.
SPLUTTER

BOOM
You have defeated an enemy!

You have leveled up!
You have leveled up!
You have leveled up!
You have leveled up!

"YOU HAVE DEFEATED AN ENEMY"...
BOSS!!
DASH
YOU'RE SO AWESOME!
TMP
YOU TOOK DOWN THE BOSS OF THE GIANTS SO EASILY!
THE MESSAGE WASN'T "YOU HAVE DEFEATED THE MASTER OF THE DUNGEON."
THE RAID ISN'T OVER YET.
BLACK SMOKE ISN'T COMING OUT...SHADOW EXTRACTION WON'T WORK.
PING!
You cannot extract a shadow.
AHA.


PAUSE
SHF
MY KING.


IT IS BUT YOUR SIMPLE SERVANT.
BOW
OH, JUST YOU.
EVEN THOUGH THE MAGIC BEAST IS DEAD, I STILL DIDN'T PICK UP ON BERU'S PRESENCE DUE TO THE INSANE LEVEL OF MANA...
ZZZZT
!

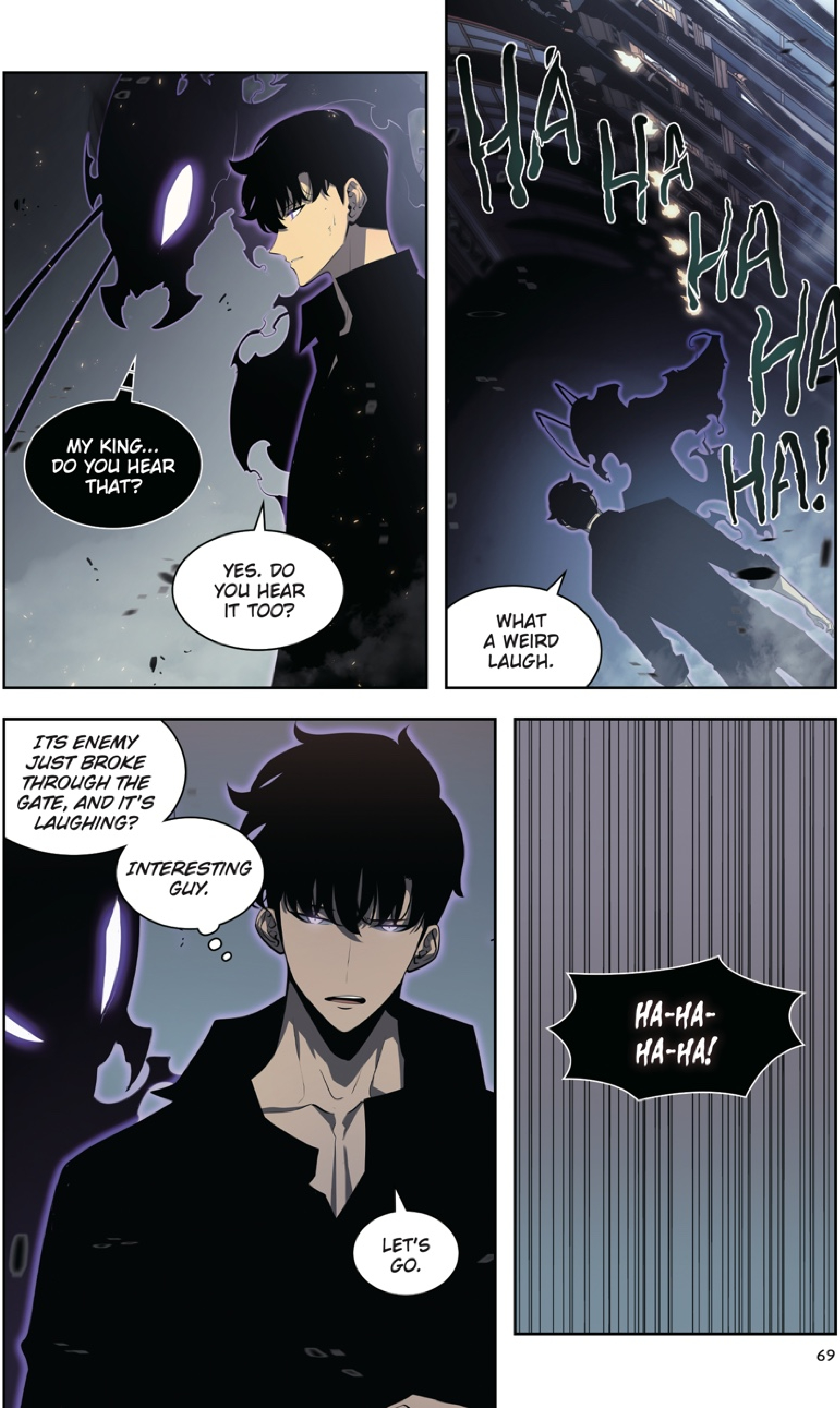
KA-BOOOOM
A CRAZY POWERFUL MANA STORM...!
WHAT HAPPENED TO JINHO?!
WHEW... THANK GOD.

THE GATE IS SUCKING UP THE GIANT'S MANA.
VMMM
THE FORCE OF THE MANA ALONE WAS ENOUGH TO CUT ME.
THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.
SHK
JINHO, WAIT HERE FOR ME.
I'M GOING TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE THE GATE.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL, BOSS!

TMP

SHOOM

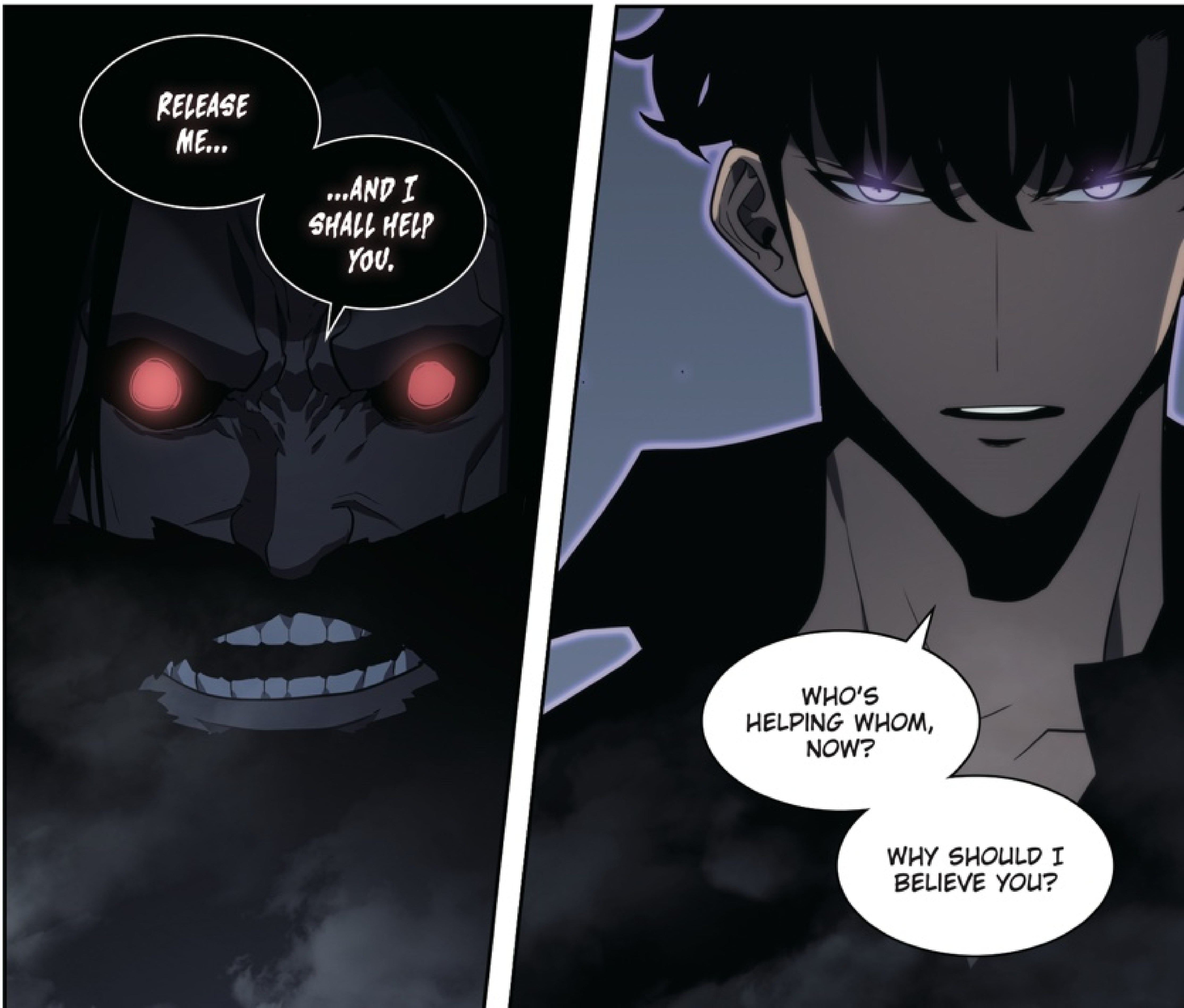
...IT'S
HUGE.
MAKES SENSE,
CONSIDERING
GIANTS CAME
THROUGH HERE.


MY KING... DO YOU HEAR THAT?
YES. DO YOU HEAR IT TOO?
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
WHAT A WEIRD LAUGH.
ITS ENEMY JUST BROKE THROUGH THE GATE, AND IT'S LAUGHING?
INTERESTING GUY.
LET'S GO.
HA-HA-HA-HA!

IT'S COMPLETELY, UTTERLY RIDICULOUS!
WELCOME, MONARCH.
ALL OF YOU DETESTABLE RULERS!
CLANG
FEAST YOUR EYES ON THE ONE WHO FOUND ME FIRST!
THIS IS THE BOSS?

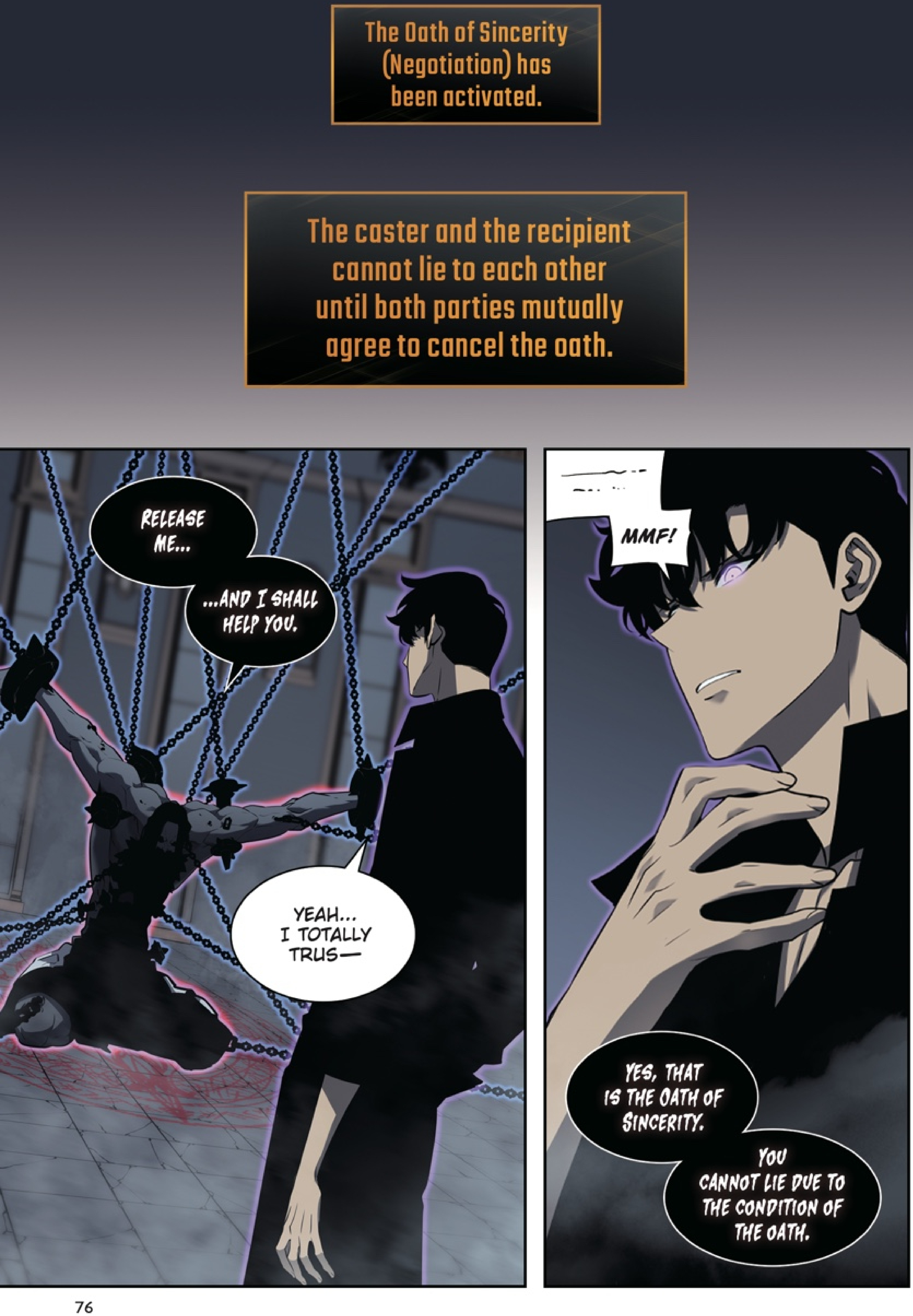
THE CHAINS...PLEASE UNDO THESE CHAINS.
I KNOW THE RULERS' PLAN.
WE MUST QUICKLY INFORM THE OTHER MONARCHS—
......
YOU...
DID THESE "RULERS" OR WHOEVER DO THIS TO YOU?
YOU'RE NOT THE ONE I KNOW.
I AM BEING USED...
...AS THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE REAL WAR.

I KEPT TRYING TO PROBE INTELLIGENT MAGIC BEASTS...
...BUT NONE OF THEM COULD EXPLAIN THEIR ORIGINS.
WHO ARE THE RULERS?
THE LONGTIME ENEMIES OF THE MONARCHS.
THE ENEMIES OF THE MONARCHS... DOES THAT MEAN THEY'RE MY ENEMIES AS WELL?
SO THE RULERS CHAINED YOU UP LIKE THIS BECAUSE YOU'RE...?
YES. I AM ONE OF THE MONARCHS.

I EXPECT BOTH THE MONARCHS AND RULERS ARE AFTER YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO DEAL WITH BOTH SIDES AS YOU ARE.
YOU'LL NEED MORE INFLUENCE.
INFLU-ENCE?

RELEASE ME...
...AND I SHALL HELP YOU.
WHO'S HELPING WHOM, NOW?
WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU?

I WILL MAKE YOU BELIEVE ME.

SHOOM
PING!
Regia, the King of Giants and Monarch of the Beginning, has activated the Oath of Sincerity (Negotiation).
PING!
Once the Oath of Sincerity (Negotiation) is accepted, both the caster and the recipient cannot lie.
PING!
Would you like to accept the Oath of Sincerity (Negotiation)? (Y/N)
Would you like to accept the Oath of Sincerity (Negotiation)? (Y/N)
THE KING OF GIANTS. WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
YES.


The Oath of Sincerity (Negotiation) has been activated.
The caster and the recipient cannot lie to each other until both parties mutually agree to cancel the oath.
RELEASE ME...
...AND I SHALL HELP YOU.
YEAH... I TOTALLY TRUS—
MMF!
YES, THAT IS THE OATH OF SINCERITY.
YOU CANNOT LIE DUE TO THE CONDITION OF THE OATH.

I SEE. BY THE WAY...
...WHY CAN YOU TALK FREELY, BUT OTHER MAGIC BEASTS CANNOT?
MAGIC BEASTS?
CREATURES THAT EMERGE FROM GATES.
OHH...YOU MEAN CITIZENS OF CHAOS.
LET ME ASK YOU IN RETURN.
WHY DO YOU THINK THE CITIZENS OF CHAOS AND THE MONARCHS WHO RULE THEM ARE ONE AND THE SAME?

THE DENIZENS OF CHAOS EXITING FROM THESE GATES ARE ALL DEFEATED TROOPS.
THEY WERE CAPTURED BY THE ARMIES OF THE RULERS...
...AND BROKEN AFTER LIVING IN CAPTIVITY FOR AN ETERNITY.

BUT I AM A KING. I AM DIFFERENT FROM THEM.
I HAVE BEEN PATIENTLY WAITING TO ESCAPE THE RULERS' GRASP.
AND SO HERE WE ARE.
BY ANY CHANCE, THE RULERS' ARMIES—
DO THEY HAVE WINGS AND WEAR SILVER ARMOR?
INDEED.
THOSE ARE THE RULERS' SOLDIERS.
WHY DO THESE RULERS OR WHATEVER KEEP SENDING CREATURES—
...I MEAN, MAGIC BEASTS TO US?

I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU, HAVEN'T I?
THEY ARE PREPARING FOR A WAR.
THEY'RE TRYING TO TRANSFORM THIS WORLD INTO A BATTLEFIELD AND CHALLENGE THE MONARCHS ONCE MORE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH SENDING MONSTERS TO EARTH?
WHY...
...IT'S TO BRING MANA INTO YOUR WORLD!

EVERYBODY, BOTH HUNTERS AND CIVILIANS ALIKE, BELIEVES...
...THAT IF MAGIC BEASTS ARE CURSES DELIVERED BY THE GATES...
...THEN MAGIC POWERS ARE THE BLESSING.
MAGIC AND ESSENCE STONES HAVE BECOME EXCELLENT SOURCES OF ENERGY.
SO IT WAS ALL ACTUALLY JUST A PRECURSOR TO A WAR?
OVER THE YEARS, THIS WORLD HAS INCREASINGLY...
...BECOME DENSELY SATURATED WITH MANA.
THAT IS THE FRUIT THAT SPRINGS FROM THE FIELDS...
...DRENCHED IN THE BLOOD OF MAGIC BEASTS.
MANA MAKES THE WORLD STRONGER.
THE RULERS' PLAN WAS TO FORTIFY YOUR WORLD IN ORDER TO STOP IT FROM BEING DESTROYED BY THE WAR.
AND THIS SO-CALLED WAR...?

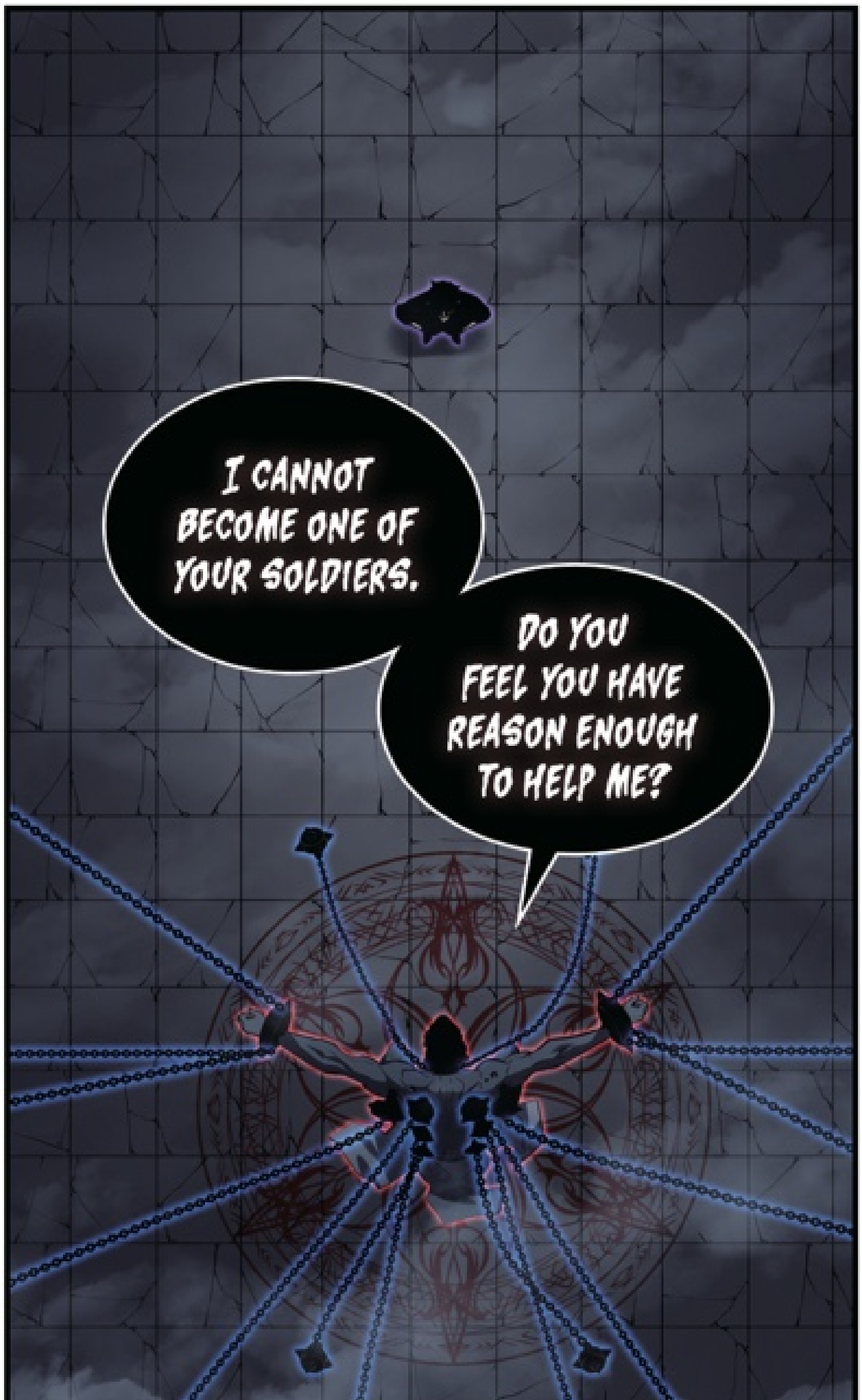
A REMATCH BETWEEN THE MONARCHS AND THE RULERS...

...THAT WILL TURN THE WORLD YOU KNOW INTO A LIVING HELL.
THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME.
ONCE IT IS DISCOVERED THAT YOU ARE THE ONE WHO FOUND ME, BOTH THE MONARCHS AND THE RULERS WILL MOBILIZE.
IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT THEIR ENVOYS ARE ALREADY ON THE MOVE.

YOU KEEP MAKING IT SOUND LIKE THEY'RE AFTER ME...
WHY IS THAT?
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
THE POWER YOU POSSESS ISN'T ACTUALLY YOURS.
BUT THAT YOU NOW WIELD IT IS EVIDENCE THAT THE ORIGINAL OWNER BETRAYED THE OTHER MONARCHS.
YOU'VE BECOME THE ENEMY OF BOTH THE MONARCHS AND THE RULERS.
BUT I ALONE SWEAR THAT I WILL STAND BY YOUR SIDE AND FIGHT FOR YOU.
SO? WILL YOU HELP ME?

IF THAT'S THE CASE, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU WERE ONE OF MY SHADOW SOLDIERS.
!

WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW...? FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, HE LOOKED LIKE...
THE MONARCHS AND RULERS HAVE ASTRAL BODIES.
ONCE AN ASTRAL BODY DIES, IT VANISHES AND CANNOT BECOME A SHADOW.


I CANNOT BECOME ONE OF YOUR SOLDIERS.
DO YOU FEEL YOU HAVE REASON ENOUGH TO HELP ME?

I GET IT.
BUT WHY DO I FEEL SO UNEASY?
ZZZ
ZT
LIKE I'M... I'M MISSING SOMETHING.

PLEASE UNCHAIN ME.
TMP
YOU SAID YOU'D STAND BY MY SIDE, RIGHT?
OF COURSE.
IF YOU HELP ME, I'LL HELP YOU.
THIS IS A BINDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN MONARCHS.
CLANK
I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HIM WITHIN THIS HUMAN... OR DID I?

IN THAT CASE...
...ARE YOU ON THE SIDE OF HUMANS?
......
WHY DON'T YOU SPEAK?

IS IT BECAUSE OF THE OATH OF SINCERITY?
THE ESSENCE STONE AT THE BACK OF YOUR NECK...
AS LONG AS IT'S PART OF YOU, YOU HAVE TO OBEY THE RULERS...
...JUST LIKE ANY OTHER MAGIC BEAST—INCLUDING THEIR ORDER TO KILL HUMANS.

WHOOSH
THE DEAL IS OFF.

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO LET YOU LIVE.
GAH!
SHUNK

YOU COULD BECOME ANOTHER CURSE TO THE PLANET.

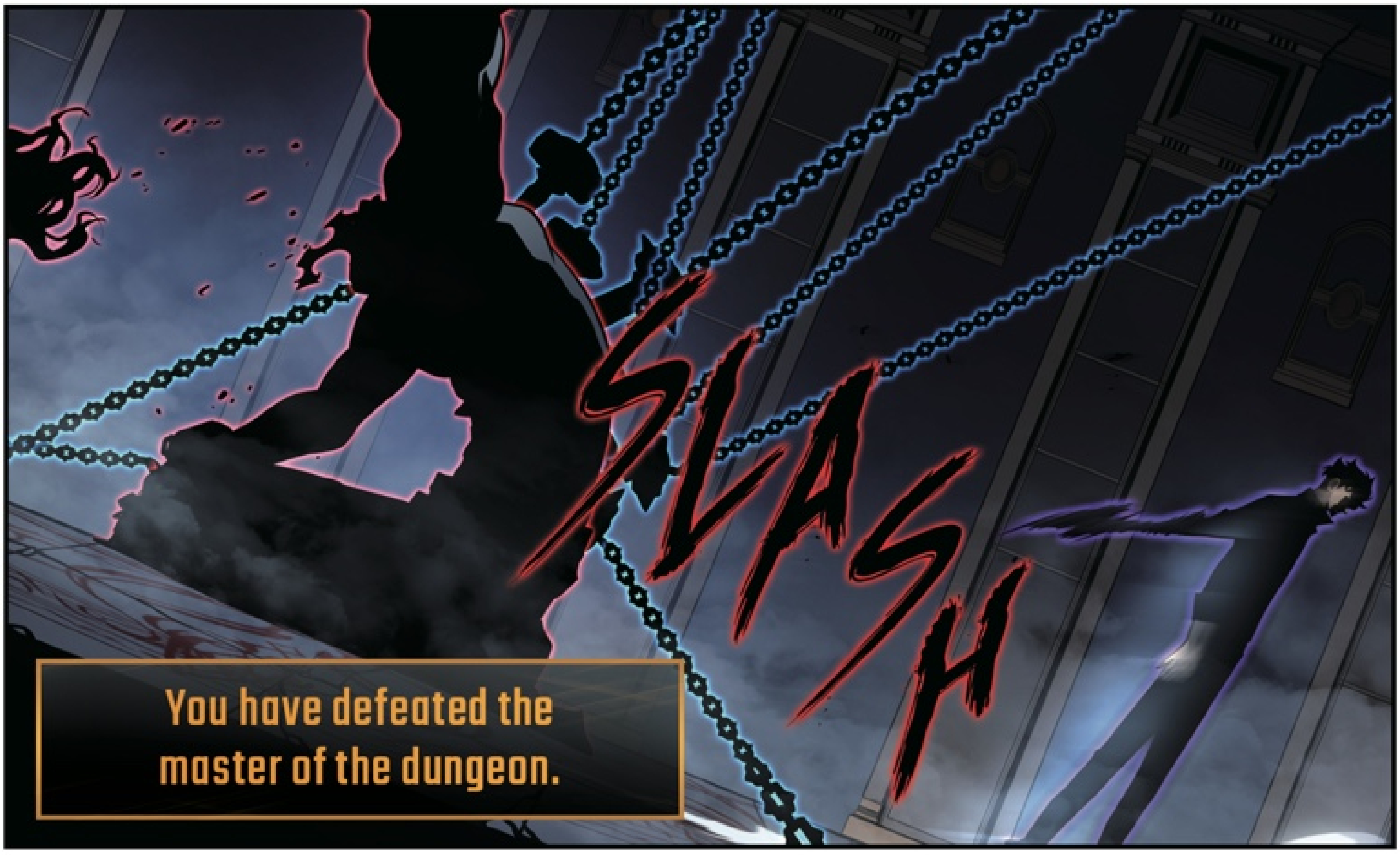
NO... YOU'RE WRONG.
I'M NOT THE CURSE... YOU ARE.

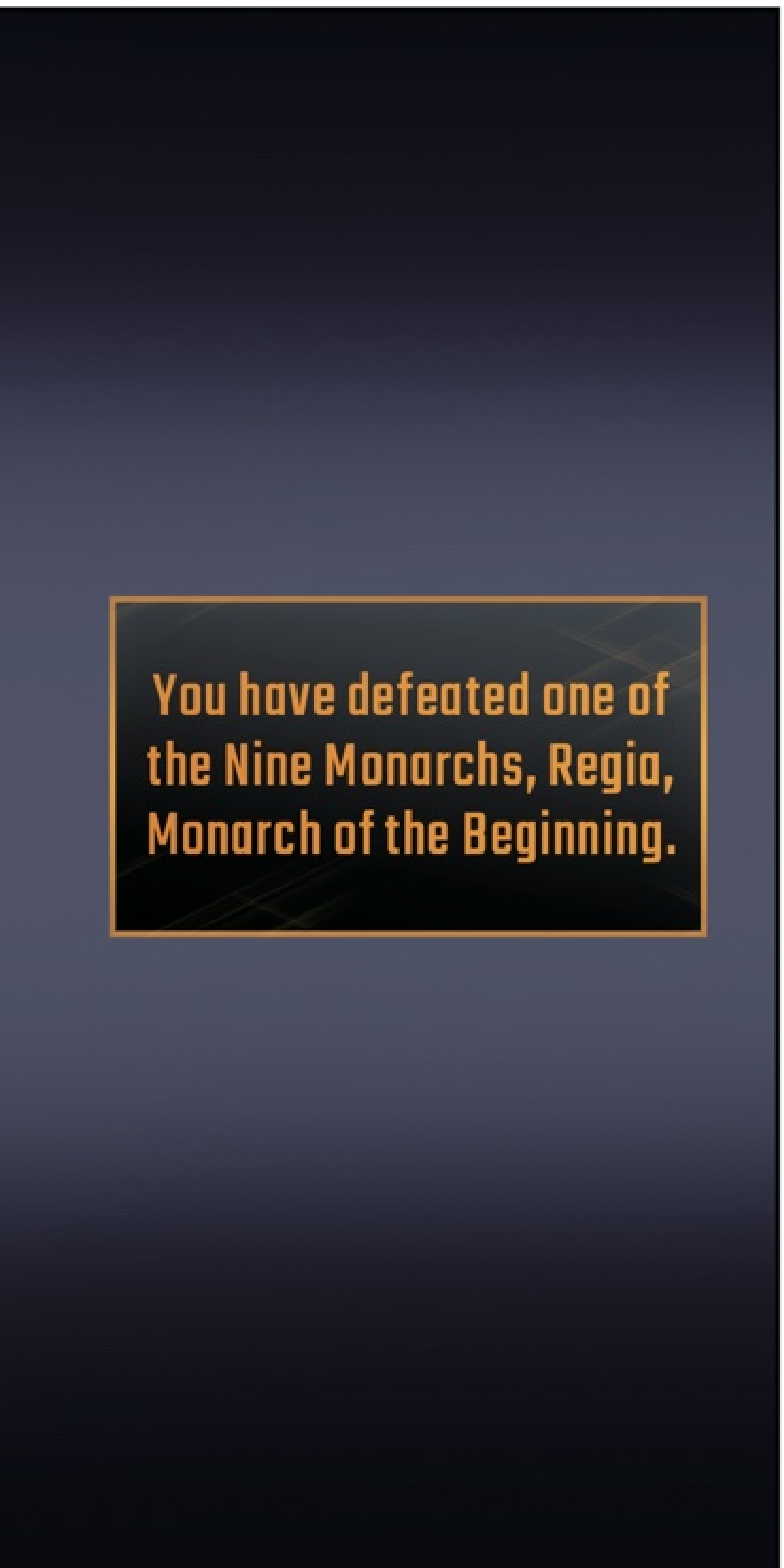
GAAH!
SHUNK
SHUNK
SHUNK
KOFF!

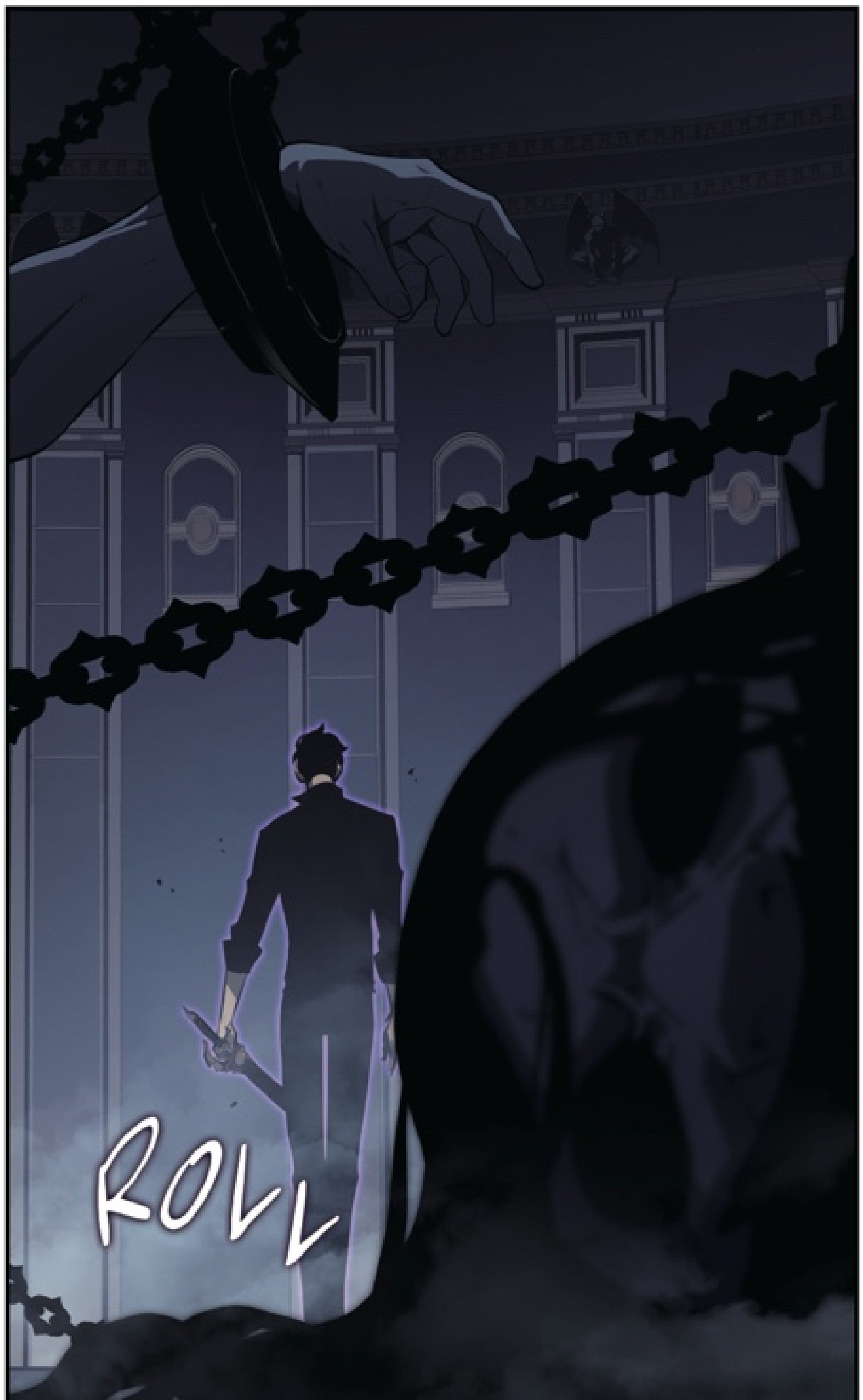
WHOOSH

SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK

KLEGH!
AS THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE CITIZENS OF YOUR WORLD AND THE DENIZENS OF CHAOS INTENSIFIES...
...MORE AND MORE OF YOUR LAND WILL GRADUALLY BECOME A BATTLEFIELD.
MAY IT BE...
...THAT ALL YOU WISH TO PROTECT BURNS TO ASH.
THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.

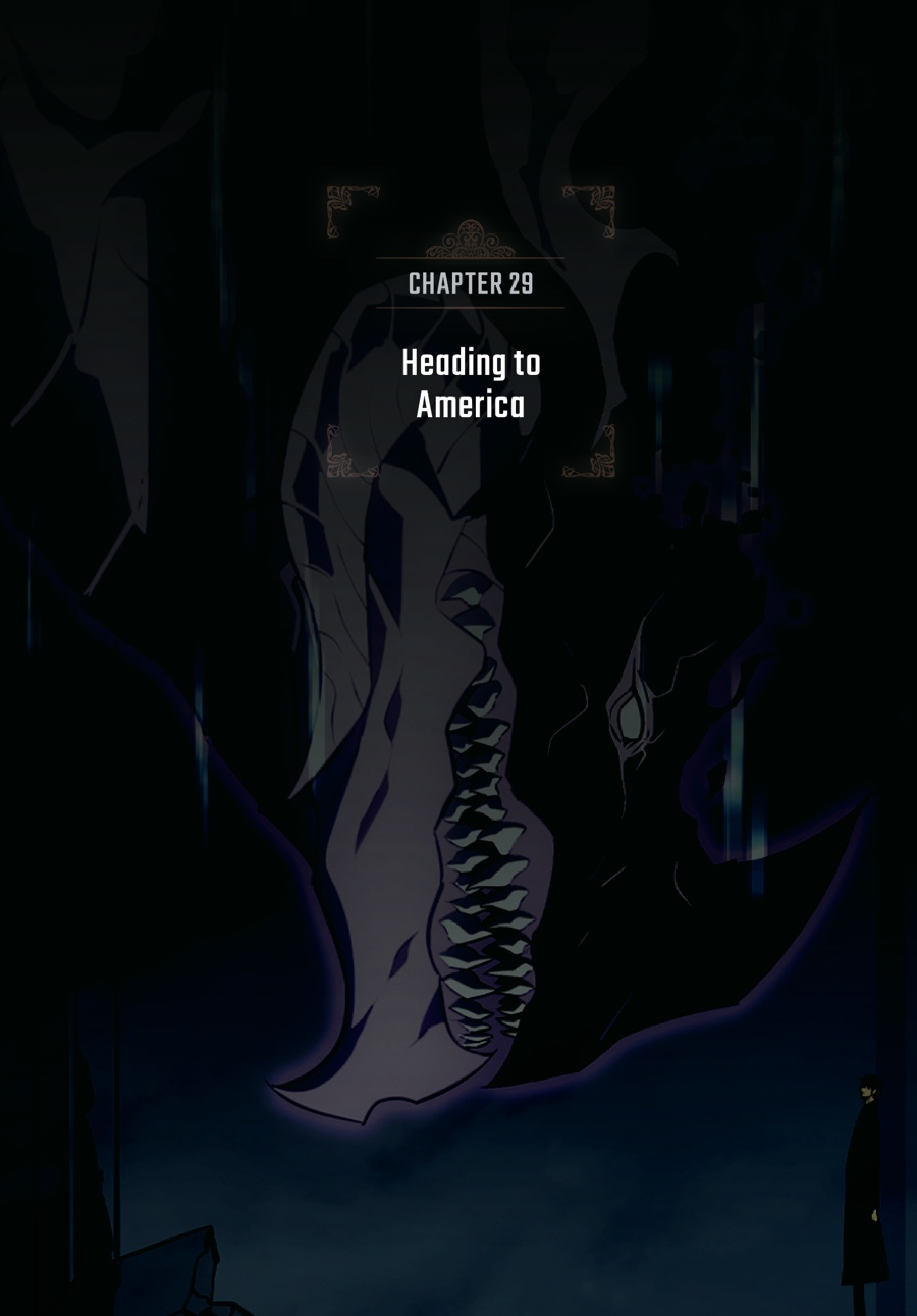

SLASH
You have defeated the master of the dungeon.


You have defeated one of the Nine Monarchs, Regia, Monarch of the Beginning.


ROLL

Your experience points are being calculated.
This may take a moment due to the large amount of experience points received.
IT SUCKS THAT I CAN'T MAKE A NEW SHADOW SOLDIER...
...BUT AT LEAST I GET TO TAKE THIS.
You have leveled up!
You have leveled up!
You have leveled up!
You have leveled up!
You have leveled up!
You have leveled up!
You have leveled up!
Level: 122

Solo Leveling


CHAPTER 29
Heading to
America

TAKKA TAKKA
<No one told me we were expecting visitors.>
NATIONAL-LEVEL HUNTER CHRISTOPHER REED
<Long time no see, Mr. Connor. And...>
<...Mrs. Sellner.>
<I have something important to discuss with you. Could you please have everyone else leave the room?>
<Make sure no one comes near this room until they've left.>
<Yes, sir.>

<What brings you two out here?>
<If this is about the S-rank gate that appeared on the East Coast...>
<...I'm not interested.>
<That's not why I'm here, Chris.>
<We have a more serious issue.>
<More serious than an S-rank gate?>
<Chris...>
<...someone is going to kill you in the near future.>

KLAK
<Mrs. Sellner, I haven't forgotten the favor you did for me.>
<But we're not so familiar that you can joke like that.>
<Exactly who will be murdering whom?>
<I had a dream about you not too long ago.>

<Mrs. Sellner...>
<In the dream, you were surrounded by several men, and—>
<Are you telling me you flew all this way to spit out nonsense just because of some dream you had?!>
<I'm aware of what kind of work you did before you awakened.>
<Because some people believed that your unique power...>
<...came from being psychic.>

<......>
<I'm a national-level hunter.>
<No one can kill me.>
<But in the dream—>
<Damn the dream.>
<Fine. Let's assume I believe what you're saying and there's someone out there who can kill me.>
<Who should I even ask for help if this is all true?>

<Who can protect a national-level hunter?>
<Ultimately, there's nothing I can do, is there?>
<......>

<There may be one person who can help you.>

<Hunter Jinwoo Sung. He may be able to protect you.>

<Jinwoo Sung?>
KILLING THE KING WAS THE RIGHT CALL.
DESPITE BEING RESTRAINED BY SPECIAL CHAINS, THE MONARCH STILL HAD ENOUGH MANA TO STEAL MY BREATH.
WHAT IF THE BASTARD HAD ROAMED AROUND FREELY OUTSIDE OF THE GATE AFTER BEING RELEASED...?
SHF
GOOD THING I REALIZED THE BEAST'S TRUE COLORS BEFORE THEN.

I NEED TO GET EVEN STRONGER.

THE NEWS THAT THE GIANTS WERE ELIMINATED INSTANTLY SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD.

SOCIAL MEDIA WAS ABUZZ ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW NATIONAL-LEVEL HUNTER.
ONLY KOREANS CARED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED ON JEJU ISLAND, BUT THIS TIME THE WHOLE WORLD HAD THEIR EYES ON HIM.

THE GIANT THAT CROSSED THE OCEAN...
...WAS KILLED BY ZHIGANG LIU OF CHINA.
PRESIDENT MATSUMOTO FROM THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN TURNED HIMSELF IN.
WHETHER HE WAS TRYING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HE HAD DONE WAS UNCLEAR.
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD IN MARYLAND, USA...
...THE AMERICAN HUNTERS HAD SAFELY COMPLETED THE S-RANK-GATE RAID AND A PARTY WAS BEING HOSTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.
<They sure went all out putting on this shindig to celebrate the S-rank-gate raid.>
<Right? The raid went better than I expected.>

<There you guys are.>
<You remember our wager, right?>
<You bet your yacht, and you bet your house, and you...>
<What did you bet again?>
<I didn't bet anything.>
<Hey, that's a pretty nice tie.>
<But I didn't—>
<Real nice tie.>
<But...>

<How's my tie?>
<It looks expensive, but it doesn't go with your Hawaiian shirt.>
TOSS
<Yeah, I didn't think so either.>
<We have a problem.>
<They've announced the guilds invited to the International Guild Conference...>
<...and the list includes the Ahjin Guild from Korea.>
<Ahjin?>
<Yes. The guild Hunter Sung recently established.>
SMIRK
<So he's coming to America.>

YOU'RE SO AWESOME, BOSS!
TOO BAD ONE ESCAPED INTO THE OCEAN, BUT MY ARMY'S POWER HAS INCREASED WITH THIS.

WHOA...
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE...?
HUNTER SUNG CAN DO THAT...?
SMUG SMUG
IT'S NO SURPRISE PEOPLE ARE SHOCKED WHEN THEY WITNESS JINWOO'S POWER FOR THE FIRST TIME.
SIR?
OH, YOU MUST BE LOOKING FOR MY BOSS. HE'S OVER—
NO, IT'S FOR YOU, HUNTER JINHO YOO...
Mute
Keypad
Speaker
Add Call
FaceCamera
Contacts

YES, HELLO?
I'M SORRY, BOSS...
...BUT I THINK I NEED TO GO BACK TO KOREA.
SOMETHING WRONG?

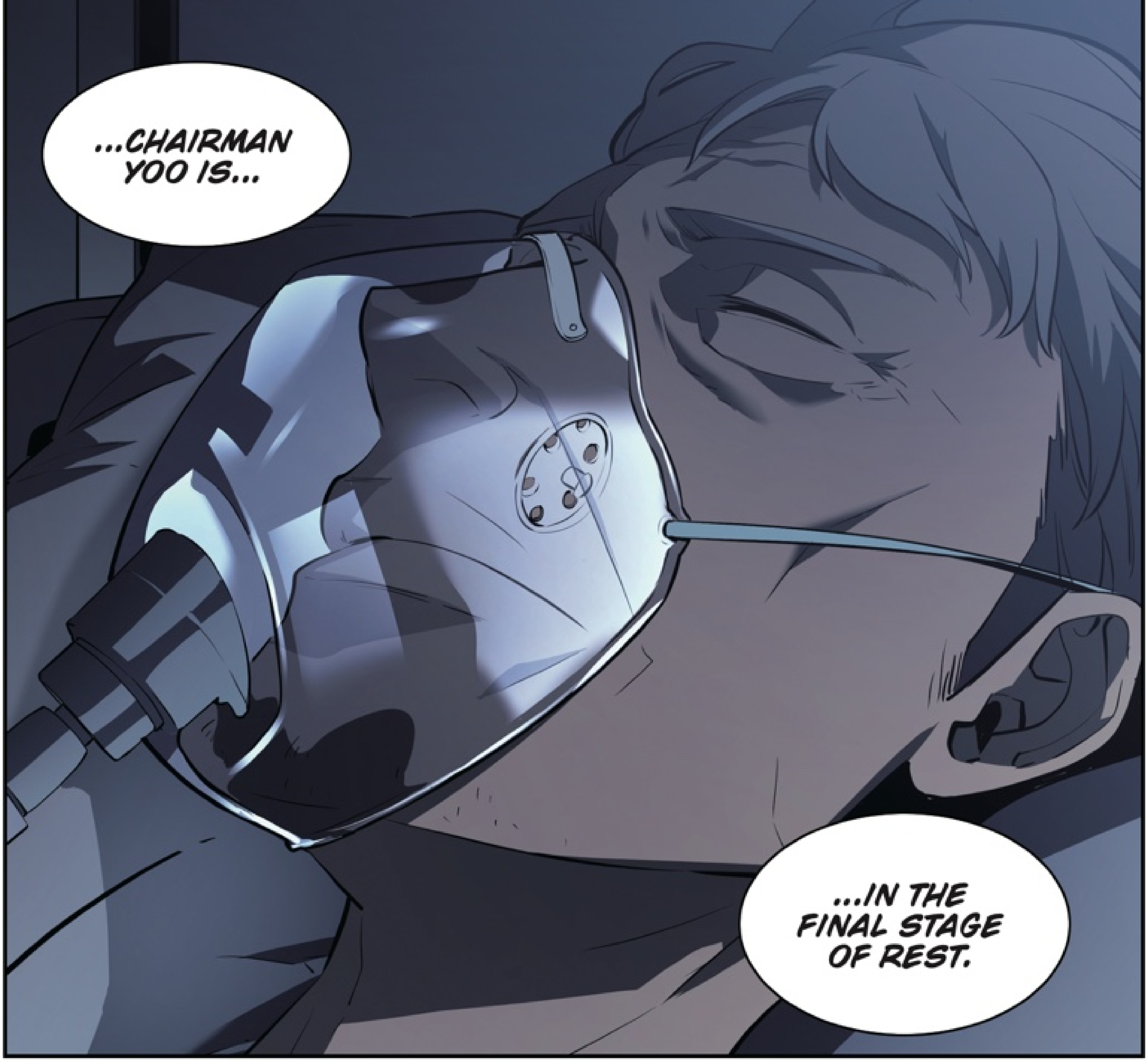
I'M NOT SURE. I WAS JUST TOLD TO RETURN TO KOREA FOR A FAMILY MATTER.
I'LL ESCORT YOU TO THE AIRPORT.
I'LL GO AHEAD, THEN, BOSS.
OKAY.
MOM'S VOICE HAS NEVER BEEN THAT SHAKY BEFORE...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
NO, DON'T THINK ABOUT IT NOW.
TAKKA TAKKA
IT MIGHT NOT BE ANYTHING SERIOUS.

INCHEON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

JINHO, THE CAR IS WAITING FOR YOU.
PLEASE COME WITH ME FOR NOW.

YOU MUST BE STRONG AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING ON THE WAY.
WHAT'S GOING ON...?

IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT...


...CHAIRMAN YOO IS...
...IN THE FINAL STAGE OF REST.

FATHER!
YOU SHOULDN'T GET ANY CLOSER.

HIS CONDITION WILL GET WORSE IF A HUNTER WHO CAN'T CONTROL MANA COMES TOO CLOSE TO HIM.
I SEE...

LOOKS LIKE I'M A USELESS SON UNTIL THE END.
SHF
WHAT'S THIS...?
IT'S SOMETHING CHAIRMAN YOO WAS WORKING ON RIGHT BEFORE HE COLLAPSED.
I WAS KEEPING IT WITH ME IN CASE HE ASKED FOR IT WHEN HE WOKE UP...
...BUT I THINK YOU NEED IT MORE, JINHO.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON...
HE SCRAPBOOKED ARTICLES HE LIKED JUST AS I DO...

CHAIRMAN YOO SCRAPBOOKED ARTICLES ABOUT YOUR SIBLINGS' ACHIEVEMENTS...
...ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS TO CONTESTS TO PERFOR-MANCES.

WHO IS JINHO
VICE PRESIDENT OF
AHJIN GUILD?
AHJIN GUILD
VICE GUILD MASTER
Jinho Yoo
TWO HUNTERS LEA
HEADING TO JAPA
IT WASN'T THAT CHAIRMAN YOO DIDN'T LOVE YOU, JINHO.
IT'S JUST THAT HIS EXPECTATIONS FOR YOU WERE AS BIG AS HIS LOVE.
LET'S CALL IT A DAY.
OKAY...
TAP

HUH?
JINHO?
FSHHH
WHY'D YA HAVE TO CRY?

BREAKS MY HEART.

POP

MS. YOO,
WE'RE HERE.
THANK YOU.
KLAK
KLAK
HEY, ISN'T
THAT...?

JINHEE...?
DAD...!!

YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT I WOKE UP FROM THE FINAL REST STAGE?
IF I HADN'T SEEN IT WITH MY OWN EYES, I WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED IT EITHER!
IT'S EXTREMELY RARE FOR PATIENTS IN THE FINAL REST STAGE TO WAKE UP!
I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE WHAT THE MEDIA WILL SAY ABOUT THIS!

FWIP
IT'S A LITTLE EARLY, BUT HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JINHO.

SO SHOULD I GO BACK TO JAPAN TO FINISH UP? OH NO...
SKILL
[Shadow Exchange Lv.2]
Job-exclusive skill.
No mana required.
The caster may switch locations with a designated shadow.
Once used, you may activate it again after a two-hour cooldown period. Wait times can vary depending on skill level.
Time remaining: 1:54:11
ONE HOUR AND 54 MINUTES...
WHAT AM I GONNA DO FOR THE NEXT TWO HOURS?
I HAVE NO CLUE HOW TO KILL TIME. NOT LIKE I CAN CALL ANYONE UP.
HOO BOY...
SHOULD I LOOK FOR A DUNGEON THAT HASN'T BEEN CLAIMED?
I THINK SO.

JOLT

<...It's too quiet.>
SHF
TOSS
CRASH

<I broke the
glass but didn't
hear a sound.>

<What is
happening?>

<Who's
there?>

IF YOU EVER NEED HELP, CALL THIS NUMBER.
PRESIDENT GUNHEE GO OF THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION OF KOREA WILL CONNECT YOU TO HIM.
<Is this what Mrs. Sellner saw?>

WHIRL

FSHH

<Who are you people?>
YOU WON'T GET VERY FAR BY BEING GENTLE WITH HUMANS...
...O FRAGMENT OF LUMINOSITY.

<The language of magic beasts?>
<What kind of bullshit are you yapping about?>
SHUSH. I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU.
UP THERE. I'M TALKING TO THE ONE CONNECTED TO YOU.
<You think I'm some sort of a joke?>
FWISH

FWOOOM
<I'm taking at least one of you bastards with me!>
AN ASTRAL BODY?
A HUMAN CAN HAVE ONE?
<Die, you damn beasts!>
KA-BOOOM

STATUS

NAME: Jinwoo Sung LEVEL: 122
JOB: Shadow Monarch
TITLE: The Demon Hunter
(and 2 others)

HP: 65,230 MP: 115,160
FATIGUE: 0

STRENGTH: 292 STAMINA: 281
AGILITY: 305 INTELLECT: 310
PERCEPTION: 277 AP: 0

Physical Damage Decrease: 65%

SKILLS

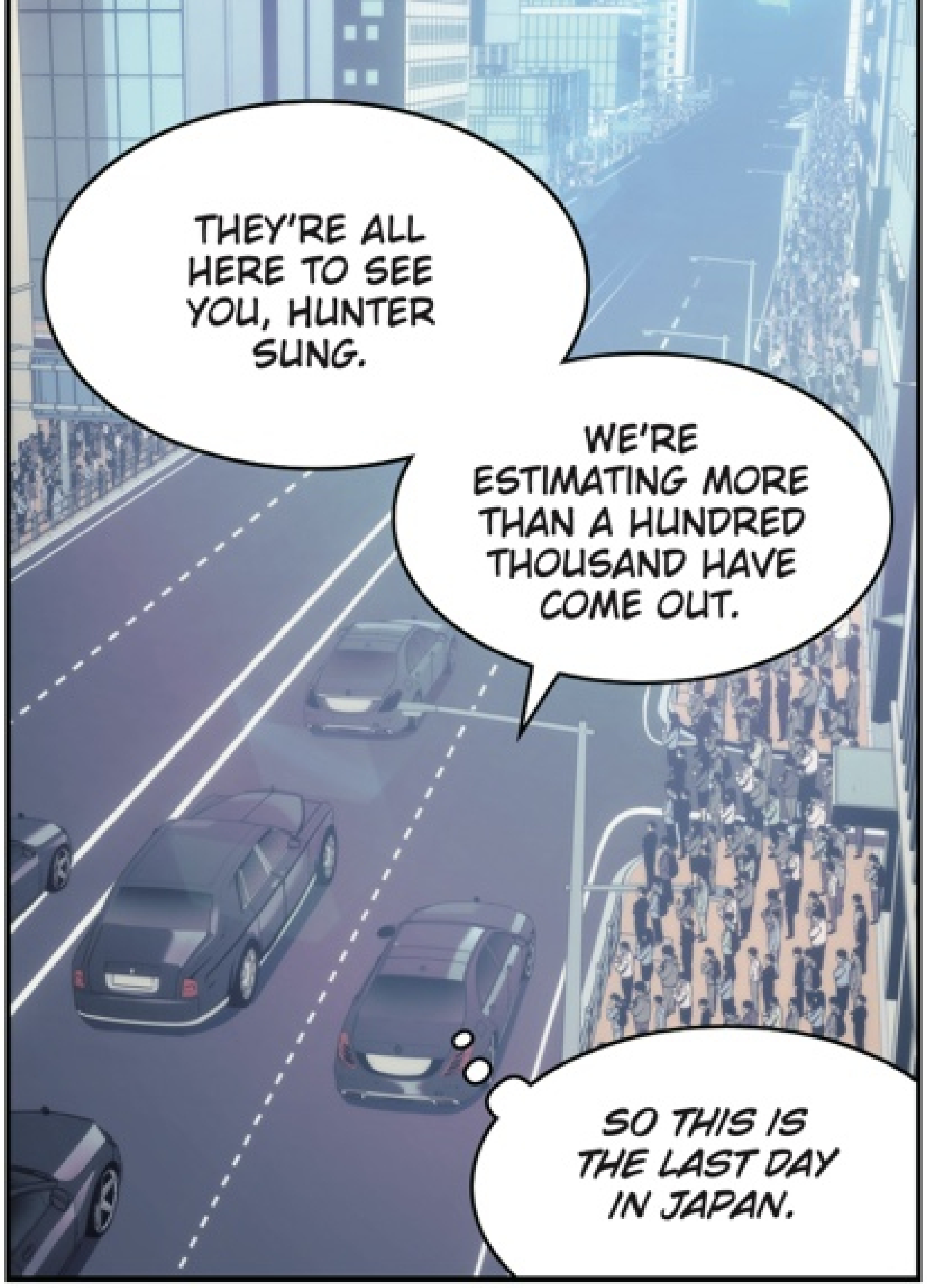
Passive Skill:
(Unknown) Lv.Max, Willpower Lv.1, Dagger Master Lv.Max

Active skill:
Flash Lv.Max, Murderous Intent Lv.2, Mutilation Lv.Max, Dagger Barrage Lv.Max, Stealth Lv.2, Ruler's Authority Lv.Max

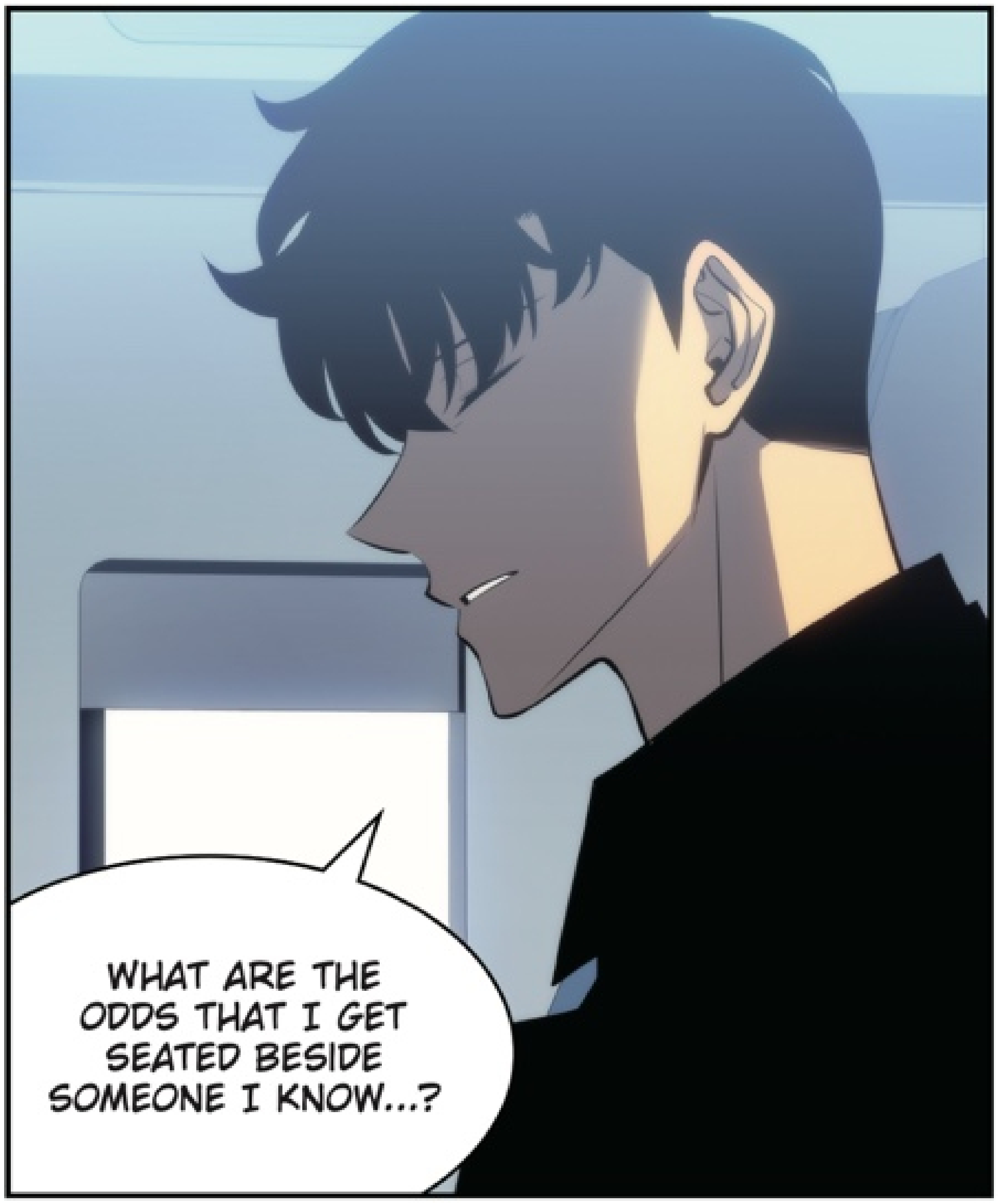
[Job-Exclusive Skills]
Active skill:
Shadow Extraction Lv.2, Shadow Storage Lv.2, Monarch's Domain Lv.2, Shadow Exchange

ITEMS

[Items Equipped]
Crimson Knight's Helmet (S), Demon Monarch's Earrings (S), Demon Monarch's Necklace (S), Demon Monarch's Ring (S), Seeker's Shirt (A), Seeker's Gloves (A), Seeker's Pants (A), Seeker's Shoes (A)

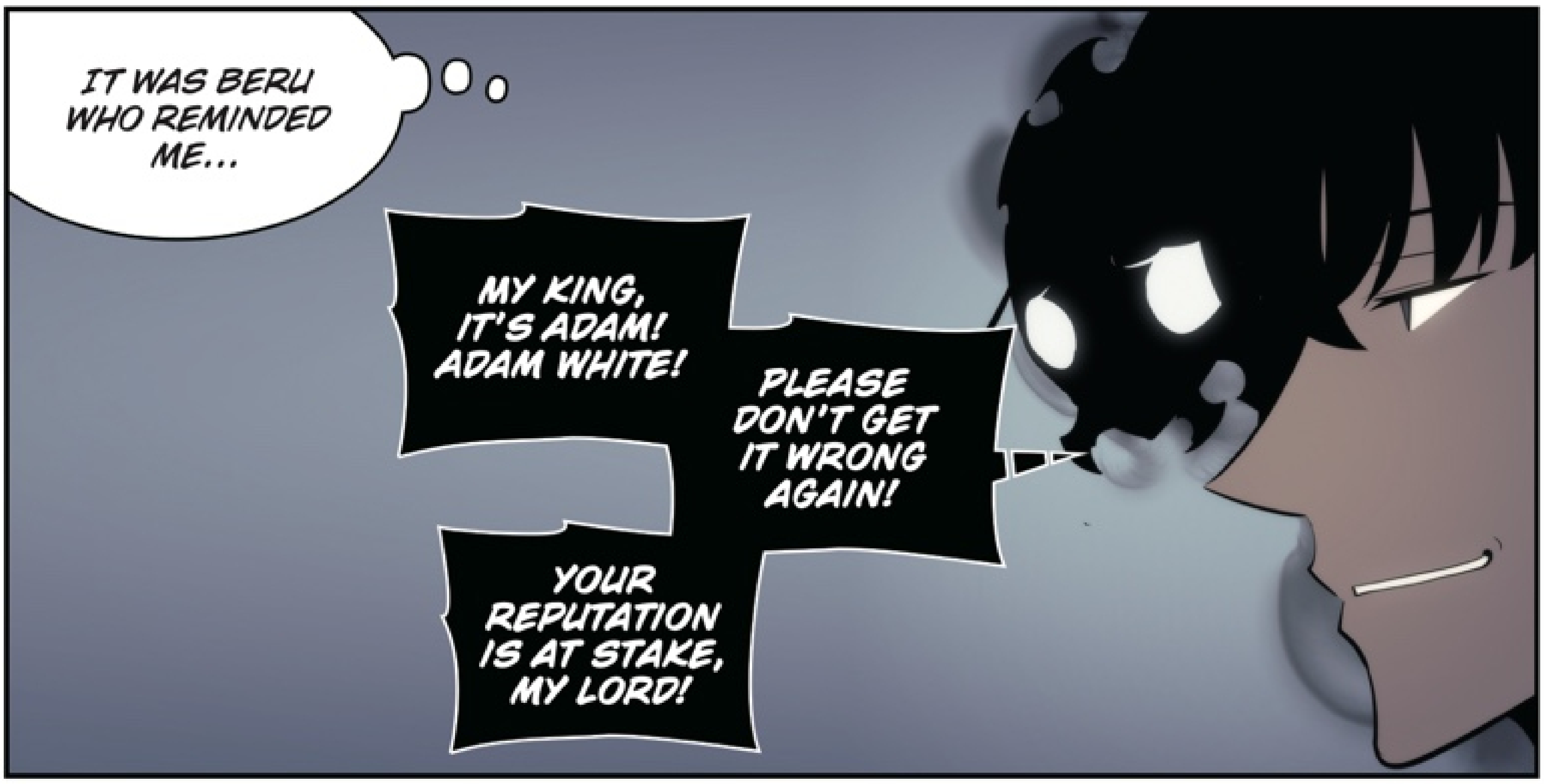

THEY'RE ALL HERE TO SEE YOU, HUNTER SUNG.
WE'RE ESTIMATING MORE THAN A HUNDRED THOUSAND HAVE COME OUT.
SO THIS IS THE LAST DAY IN JAPAN.

MY KING, THESE SUBJECTS ARE PLEDGING THEIR LOYALTY TO YOU.
YOU MUST WAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEM, MY KING—
BERU, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.


WHAT ARE THE ODDS THAT I GET SEATED BESIDE SOMEONE I KNOW...?

ARE YOU GOING TO INSIST THIS IS JUST A COINCIDENCE?
I'D PREFER IF YOU THOUGHT OF IT THAT WAY...BUT I GUESS THAT WOULD BE TOO MUCH TO ASK?

WE MEET AGAIN, MR. WHITE.
WE'VE ONLY MET ONCE, BUT YOU REMEMBER MY NAME.
IT'S AN HONOR TO SEE YOU AGAIN, HUNTER SUNG.


IT WAS BERU WHO REMINDED ME...
MY KING, IT'S ADAM! ADAM WHITE!
PLEASE DON'T GET IT WRONG AGAIN!
YOUR REPUTATION IS AT STAKE, MY LORD!

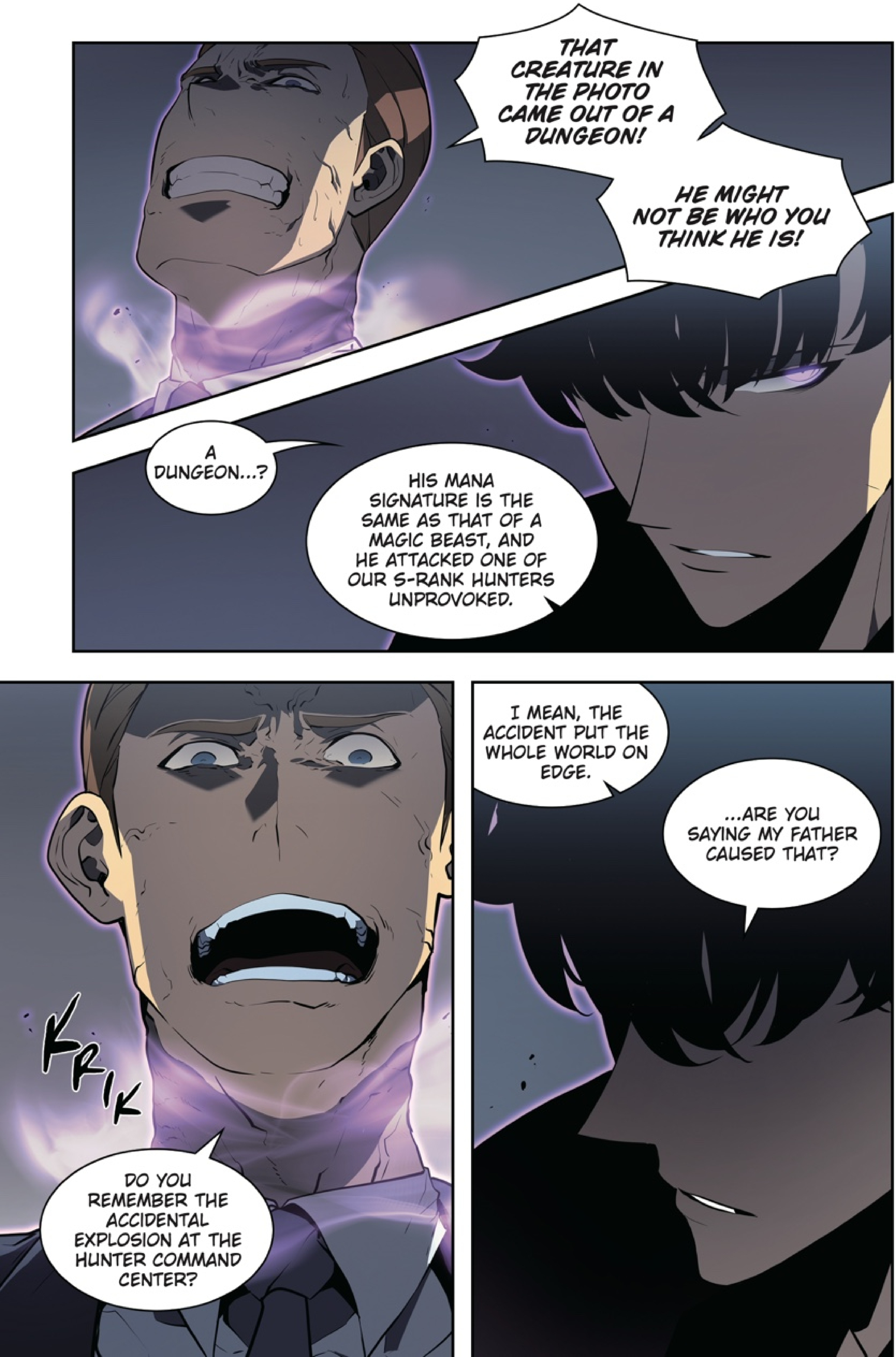
AREN'T WE DONE NEGOTIATING?
PARDON ME FOR TURNING UP UNANNOUNCED...
...BUT THERE'S AN URGENT MATTER I NEED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.

DID YOU HAVE TROUBLE CLOSING THAT S-RANK GATE...?
OH, NO, THAT'S BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.
SHF
COULD YOU PLEASE WATCH THIS?
WHAT'S WITH THIS FIRE? IT WON'T GO OUT!
THIS IS NO ORDINARY FIRE!
HEY, YOU THERE! STAY BACK! YOU'LL BE A PILE OF ASH IF A SPARK SO MUCH AS LANDS ON YOU!
GOD HELP US! WHAT ABOUT BACKUP?
WHEN'S OUR BACKUP GETTING HERE?

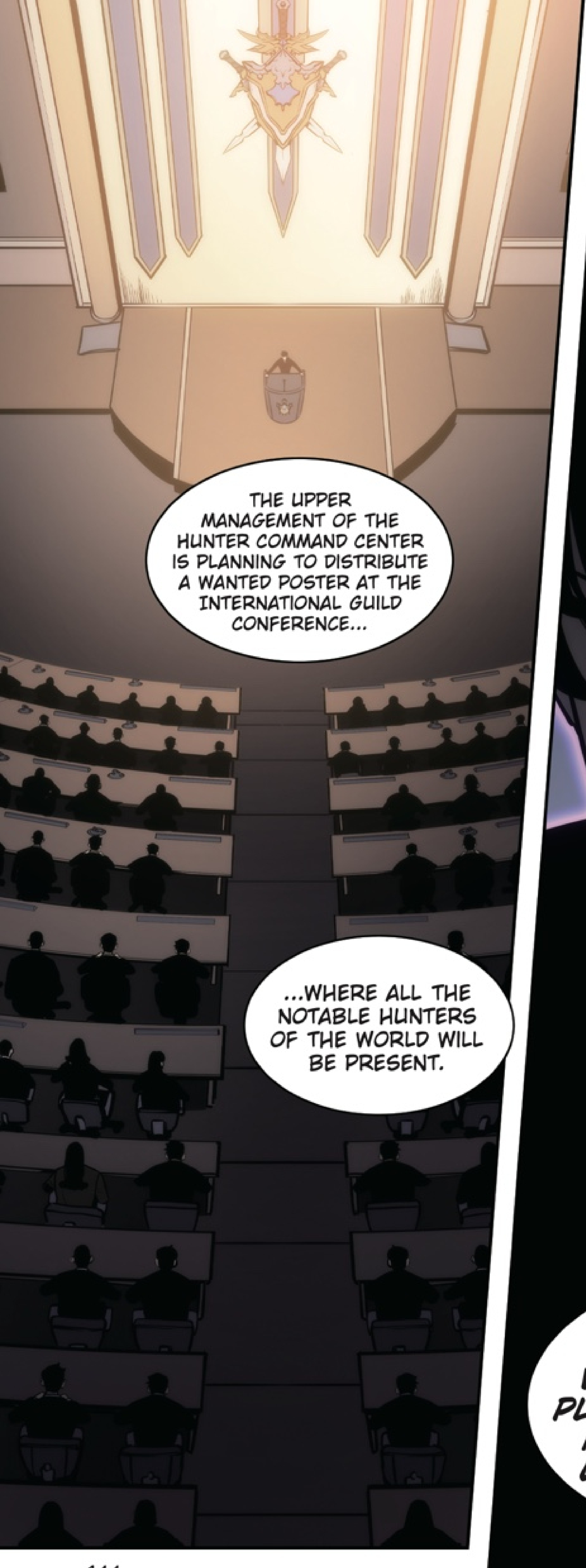
WHY ARE YOU SHOWING ME THIS?
HERE... WATCH THE LAST PART...
CHRISTOPHER REED STARTED THIS FIRE. HE'S A NATIONAL-LEVEL HUNTER.
IN ORDER TO PUT OUT THE RESULTING BLAZE, WE HAD TO MOBILIZE 1,800 FIREFIGHTERS AND FOURTEEN MAGE HUNTERS.
A FIRE THAT BIG MEANS THERE HAD TO BE A BATTLE.
SO WHAT HAPPENED TO CHRISTOPHER?
WE COULDN'T BELIEVE IT, BUT MR. REED WAS DEFINITELY MURDERED.

AND THESE—
VMM
THESE ARE PICTURES OF THE CREATURE THAT THE HUNTER COMMAND CENTER CONSIDERS THE MOST LIKELY SUSPECT.
HUH? WHAT?

SQUEEZE
URK!
IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF PRANK...
...YOU WON'T BE WALKING OFF OF THIS PLANE ON YOUR OWN FEET.
<Stop!>
FLINCH
<Don't!>


THAT CREATURE IN THE PHOTO CAME OUT OF A DUNGEON!
HE MIGHT NOT BE WHO YOU THINK HE IS!
A DUNGEON...?
HIS MANA SIGNATURE IS THE SAME AS THAT OF A MAGIC BEAST, AND HE ATTACKED ONE OF OUR S-RANK HUNTERS UNPROVOKED.
KRIK
DO YOU REMEMBER THE ACCIDENTAL EXPLOSION AT THE HUNTER COMMAND CENTER?
I MEAN, THE ACCIDENT PUT THE WHOLE WORLD ON EDGE.
...ARE YOU SAYING MY FATHER CAUSED THAT?

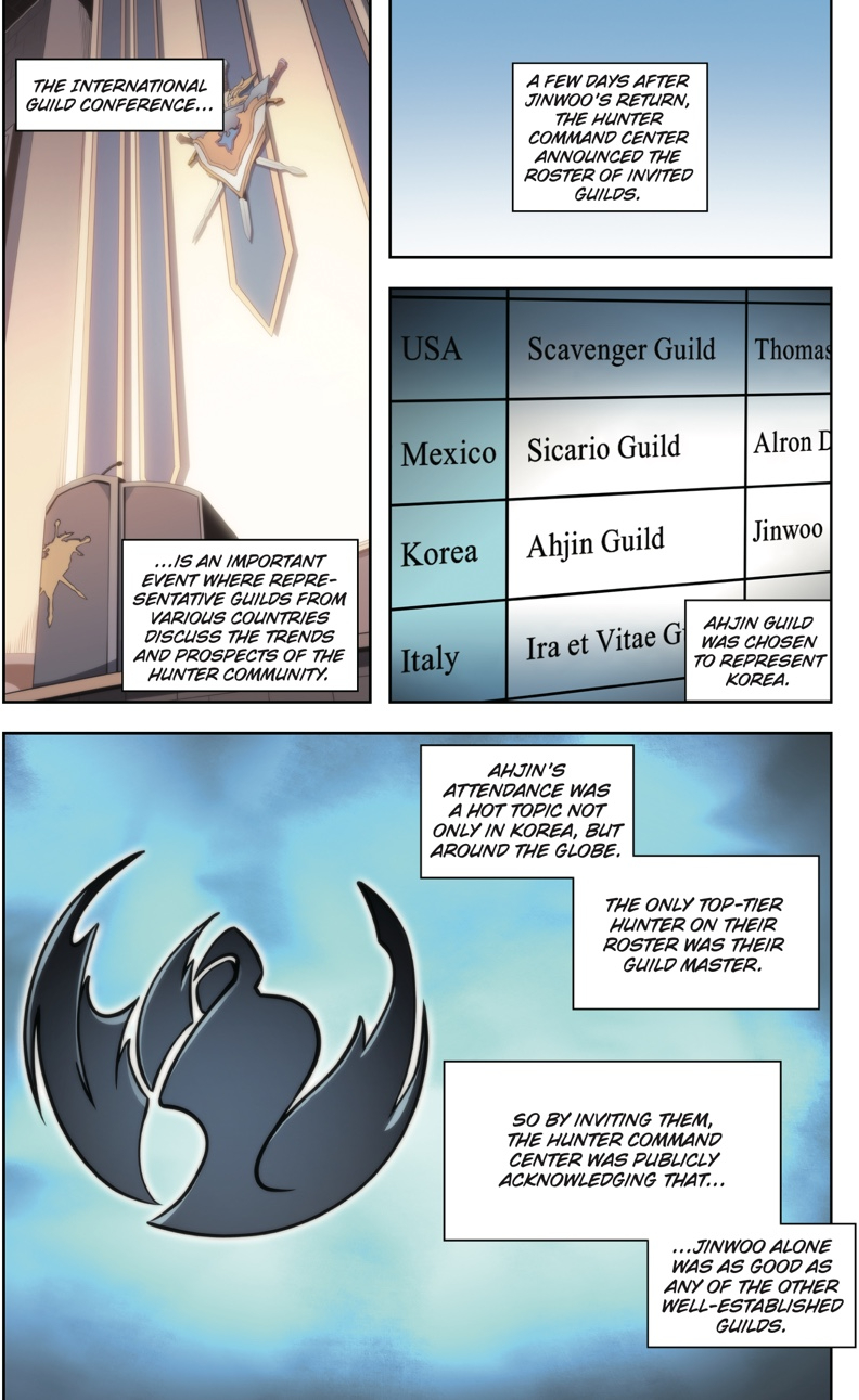
TAP
HE KNOCKED OUT SOME OF OUR HUNTERS AND THEN VANISHED.
THE HUNTER COMMAND CENTER SECRETLY GAVE CHASE...
KOFF! KOFF!
....BUT WE NEVER FOUND EVEN A TRACE OF HIM, AS IF HE EVAPORATED INTO THIN AIR.
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MUST FEEL, HUNTER SUNG.
BUT ALL THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO HIM.
SO WHY ARE YOU GOING TO THE TROUBLE OF SHOWING ME THESE PICTURES?
BECAUSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD CONFERENCE.


THE UPPER MANAGEMENT OF THE HUNTER COMMAND CENTER IS PLANNING TO DISTRIBUTE A WANTED POSTER AT THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD CONFERENCE...
...WHERE ALL THE NOTABLE HUNTERS OF THE WORLD WILL BE PRESENT.

IT MEANS WE NO LONGER PLAN TO KEEP THE INVESTIGATION UNDER WRAPS.

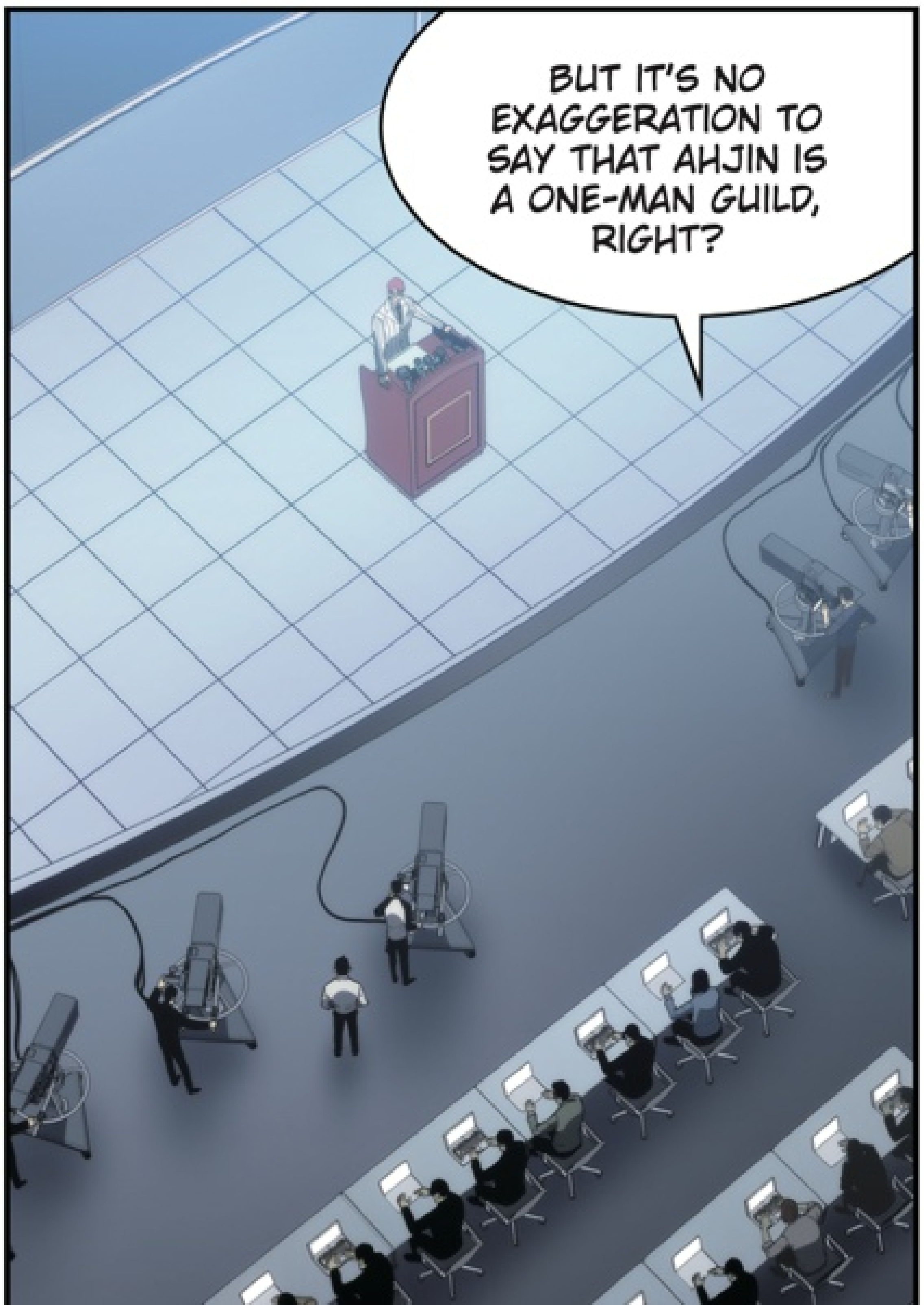
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT LOST A NATIONAL-LEVEL HUNTER IN ALL THIS.
THEY WANT TO CAPTURE THE MAN RESPONSIBLE BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.
THE HUNTER COMMAND CENTER WANTS TO MAINTAIN THE AMICABLE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE, HUNTER SUNG.
SO I CAME HERE TO INFORM YOU OF THIS BEFORE IT GOES PUBLIC.
S-SINCE YOU WERE ALSO INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE, IT WOULD HAVE PUT YOU IN A TOUGH SPOT.
MY FATHER, WHO'S BEEN MISSING FOR TEN YEARS...
...HAS RETURNED AS A MAGIC BEAST?

<Are you okay, sir?>
<I'm fine. Just a little tired.>
<Was that telekinesis? High-level hunters can only move objects. His power is on another level.>
<I thought only national-level hunters had that kind of telekinetic power...>
<This man is the sixth national-level hunter.>
<I need to inform Mr. Connor about this at once.>

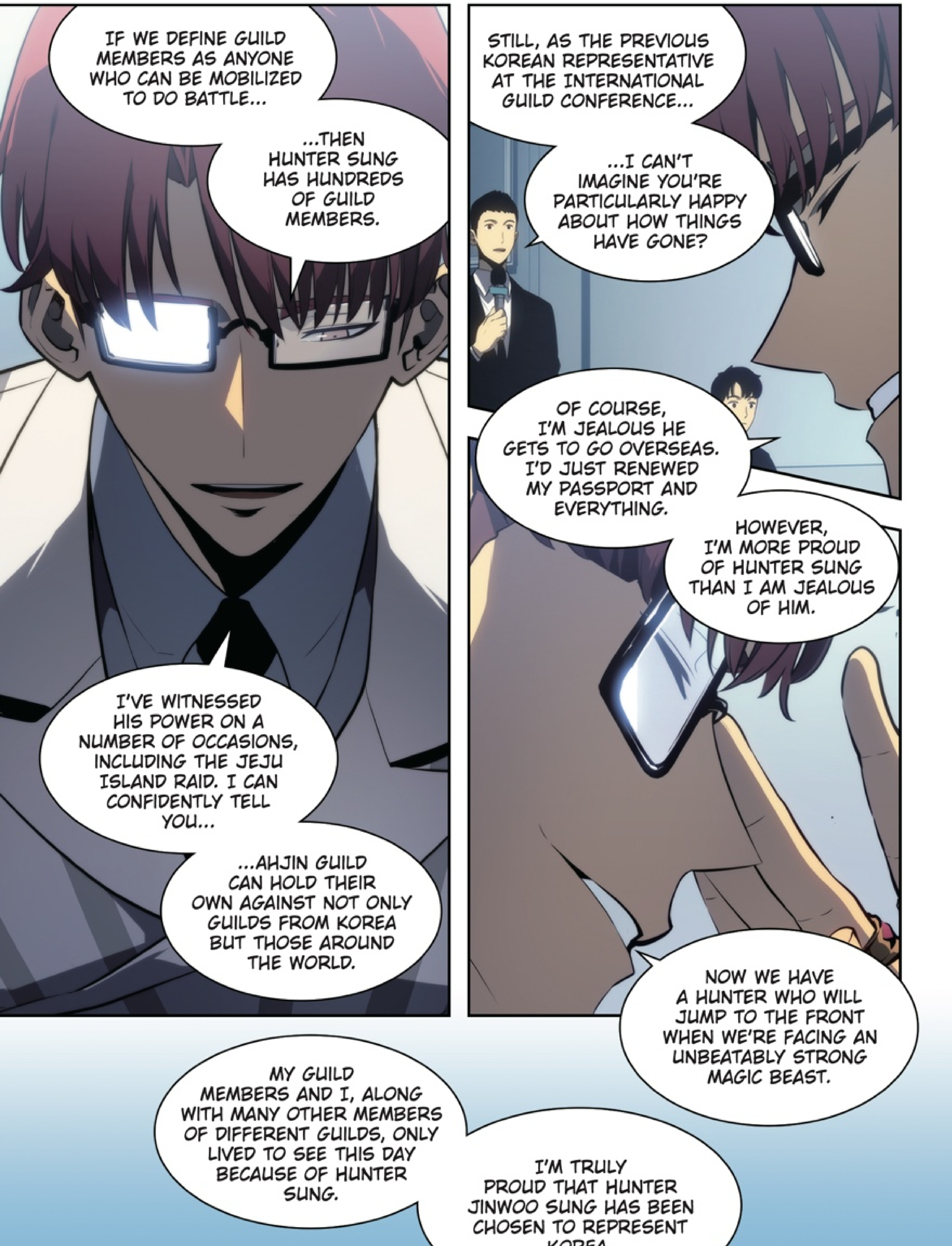

THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD CONFERENCE...
...IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT WHERE REPRESENTATIVE GUILDS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES DISCUSS THE TRENDS AND PROSPECTS OF THE HUNTER COMMUNITY.
A FEW DAYS AFTER JINWOO'S RETURN, THE HUNTER COMMAND CENTER ANNOUNCED THE ROSTER OF INVITED GUILDS.
USA
Scavenger Guild
Thomas
Mexico
Sicario Guild
Alron D
Korea
Ahjin Guild
Jinwoo
Italy
Ira et Vitae G
AHJIN GUILD WAS CHOSEN TO REPRESENT KOREA.
AHJIN'S ATTENDANCE WAS A HOT TOPIC NOT ONLY IN KOREA, BUT AROUND THE GLOBE.
THE ONLY TOP-TIER HUNTER ON THEIR ROSTER WAS THEIR GUILD MASTER.
SO BY INVITING THEM, THE HUNTER COMMAND CENTER WAS PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT...
...JINWOO ALONE WAS AS GOOD AS ANY OF THE OTHER WELL-ESTABLISHED GUILDS.

THERE HAS BEEN MUCH INTEREST IN AHJIN GUILD SINCE THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD CONFERENCE CHOSE IT TO REPRESENT KOREA INSTEAD OF HUNTERS GUILD.
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT, PRESIDENT CHOI?
I THINK THE HUNTER COMMAND CENTER MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.
DOES THAT MEAN YOU SUPPORT THEIR DECISION?

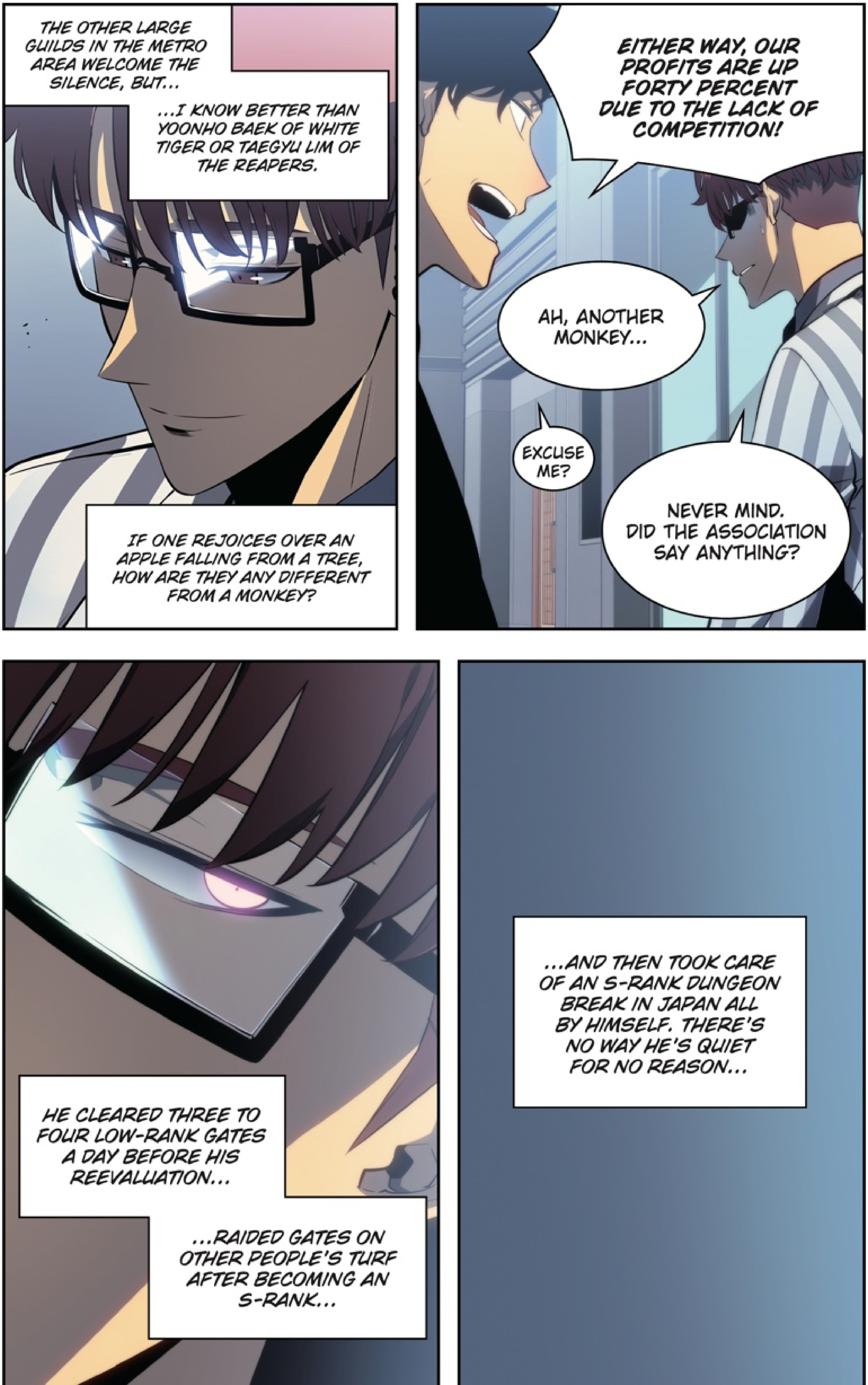
I DO INDEED.


BUT IT'S NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT AHJIN IS A ONE-MAN GUILD, RIGHT?

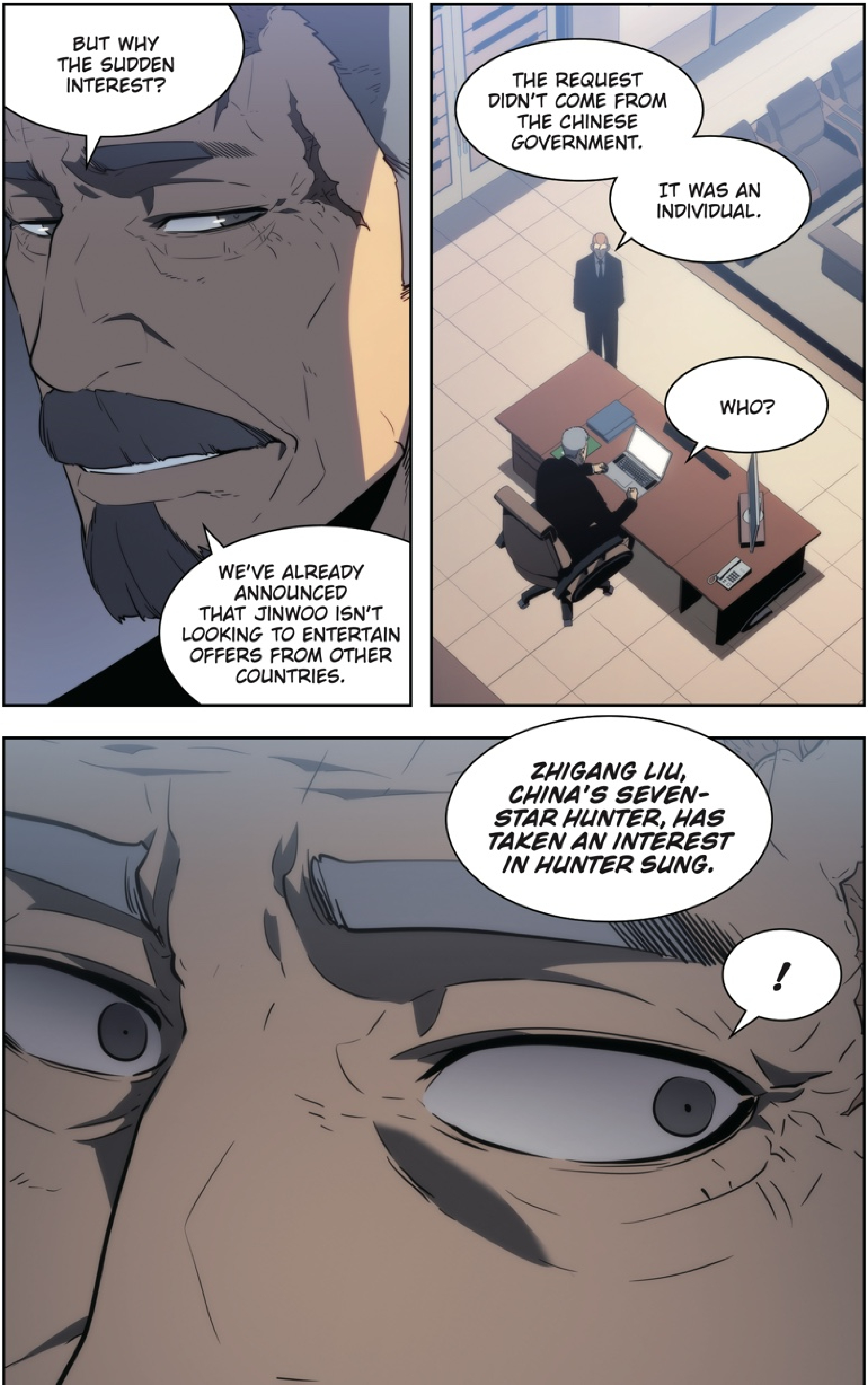
YES, BUT THAT ONE MAN IS HUNTER JINWOO SUNG.


IF WE DEFINE GUILD MEMBERS AS ANYONE WHO CAN BE MOBILIZED TO DO BATTLE...
...THEN HUNTER SUNG HAS HUNDREDS OF GUILD MEMBERS.
I'VE WITNESSED HIS POWER ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, INCLUDING THE JEJU ISLAND RAID. I CAN CONFIDENTLY TELL YOU...
...AHJIN GUILD CAN HOLD THEIR OWN AGAINST NOT ONLY GUILDS FROM KOREA BUT THOSE AROUND THE WORLD.
STILL, AS THE PREVIOUS KOREAN REPRESENTATIVE AT THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD CONFERENCE...
...I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU'RE PARTICULARLY HAPPY ABOUT HOW THINGS HAVE GONE?
OF COURSE, I'M JEALOUS HE GETS TO GO OVERSEAS. I'D JUST RENEWED MY PASSPORT AND EVERYTHING.
HOWEVER, I'M MORE PROUD OF HUNTER SUNG THAN I AM JEALOUS OF HIM.
NOW WE HAVE A HUNTER WHO WILL JUMP TO THE FRONT WHEN WE'RE FACING AN UNBEATABLY STRONG MAGIC BEAST.
MY GUILD MEMBERS AND I, ALONG WITH MANY OTHER MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT GUILDS, ONLY LIVED TO SEE THIS DAY BECAUSE OF HUNTER SUNG.
I'M TRULY PROUD THAT HUNTER JINWOO SUNG HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO REPRESENT KOREA.

PRESIDENT CHOI, WE GOT THE PERMIT FOR THE GATE THAT SPAWNED IN SUSEO-DONG THIS MORNING.
IT'S AN A-RANK GATE, BUT THE LEVEL ISN'T THAT HIGH ACCORDING TO THE READINGS.
EXCELLENT.
BY THE WAY, SIR, DID AHJIN GUILD NOT TRY TO BOOK THIS GATE EITHER?
NO, THEY DIDN'T. THEY'VE BEEN TOO QUIET LATELY.
IT'S BEEN FOUR DAYS SINCE HUNTER JINWOO SUNG RETURNED FROM JAPAN, BUT THE DESTROYER OF GATES HASN'T APPEARED AT A RAID.


THE OTHER LARGE GUILDS IN THE METRO AREA WELCOME THE SILENCE, BUT...
...I KNOW BETTER THAN YOONHO BAEK OF WHITE TIGER OR TAEGYU LIM OF THE REAPERS.
IF ONE REJOICES OVER AN APPLE FALLING FROM A TREE, HOW ARE THEY ANY DIFFERENT FROM A MONKEY?
EITHER WAY, OUR PROFITS ARE UP FORTY PERCENT DUE TO THE LACK OF COMPETITION!
AH, ANOTHER MONKEY...
EXCUSE ME?
NEVER MIND. DID THE ASSOCIATION SAY ANYTHING?
HE CLEARED THREE TO FOUR LOW-RANK GATES A DAY BEFORE HIS REEVALUATION...
...RAIDED GATES ON OTHER PEOPLE'S TURF AFTER BECOMING AN S-RANK...
...AND THEN TOOK CARE OF AN S-RANK DUNGEON BREAK IN JAPAN ALL BY HIMSELF. THERE'S NO WAY HE'S QUIET FOR NO REASON...

CHINA IS REQUESTING INFORMATION ON HUNTER SUNG.
INFORMATION? DO YOU MEAN HIS PERSONAL INFORMATION?
NO, SIR.
THEN WHAT?
THEY WANT ANYTHING THAT'S PUBLICLY AVAILABLE, SUCH AS HIS RAID RECORDS OR ANY NEWSPAPER PIECES ABOUT HIM.
THAT MAKES SENSE...CHINA KNOWS BETTER THAN TO EXPECT ACCESS TO THE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF ANOTHER COUNTRY'S S-RANK HUNTER.


BUT WHY THE SUDDEN INTEREST?
WE'VE ALREADY ANNOUNCED THAT JINWOO ISN'T LOOKING TO ENTERTAIN OFFERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.
THE REQUEST DIDN'T COME FROM THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.
IT WAS AN INDIVIDUAL.
WHO?
ZHIGANG LIU, CHINA'S SEVEN-STAR HUNTER, HAS TAKEN AN INTEREST IN HUNTER SUNG.
!

CHINA DOESN'T FOLLOW THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD WHEN IT COMES TO RANKING HUNTERS. INSTEAD, THEY USE A STAR RANKING SYSTEM.
FIVE STARS HAD BEEN THE HIGHEST RANK ONE COULD ACHIEVE...
...UNTIL ONE HAD TO BE CATEGORIZED DIFFERENTLY. HE WAS CALLED THE SEVEN-STAR HUNTER.
ZHIGANG LIU IS INTERESTED IN HUNTER SUNG?
ZHIGANG FOUGHT ONE OF THE GIANTS.
SO HE WANTS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE MAN WHO TOOK CARE OF THE REST.
IS IT A CASE OF THE MIGHTY RECOGNIZING THE MIGHTY?
GO AHEAD AND TURN HIM DOWN.
IF HE'S INSISTENT, JUST GIVE HIM SOME TRIVIAL INFORMATION.

<Hunter Jinwoo Sung will arrive tomorrow.>

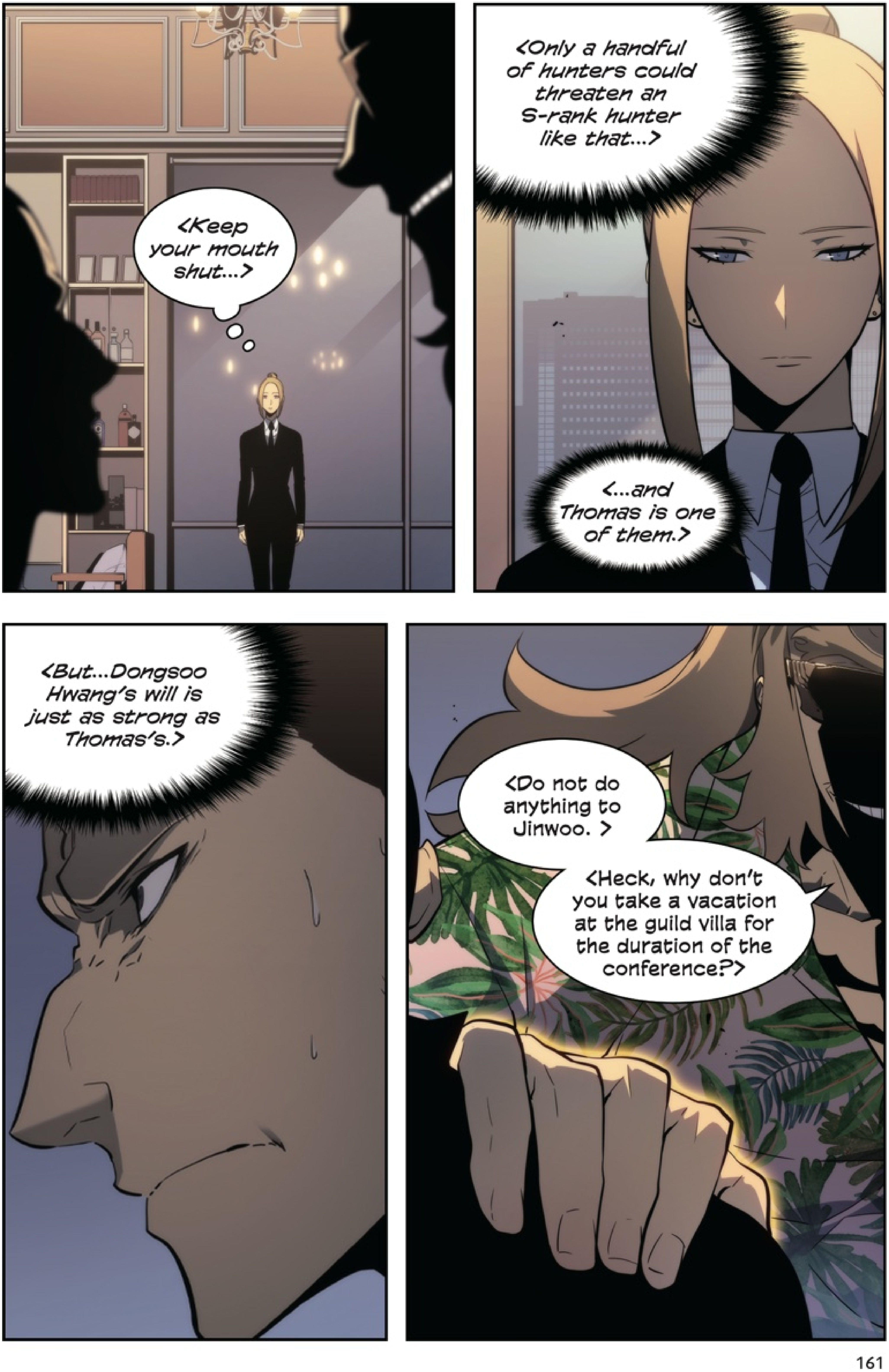
<It's already tomorrow.>

KACHAK
<You wanted to see me, sir?>
<Oh! You're right on time. >
<There's something I need to tell you.>
<Yes?>
TMP
<I'll cut to the chase.>

<Do not lay a finger on Jinwoo Sung.>
<Mr. Hwang.>

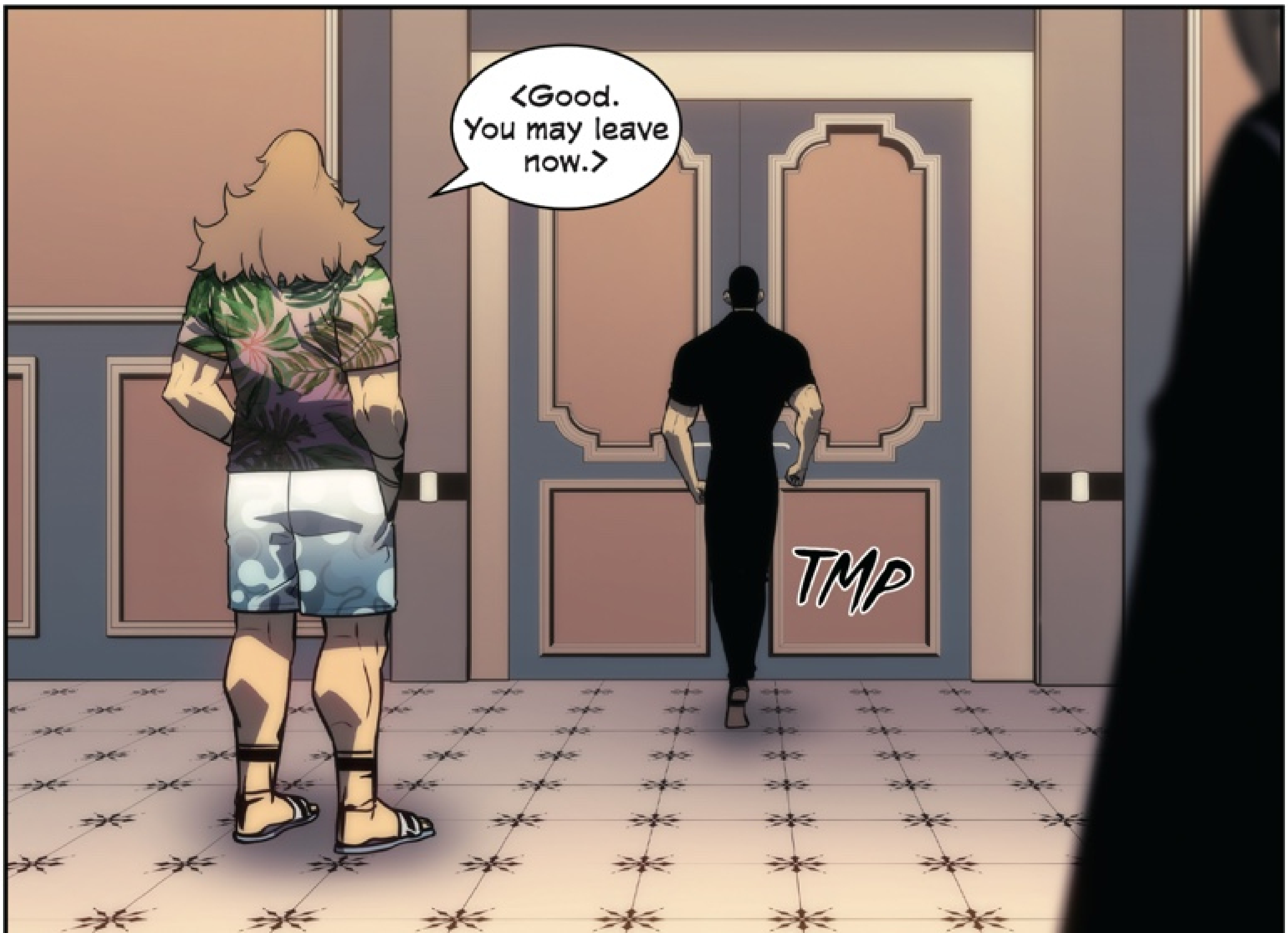
<I know what happened between your older brother and Hunter Sung.>
<I understand that there were suspicious circumstances and that you want answers.>
<But—>
WHOOSH

<I don't remember saying you could speak, Mr. Hwang.>

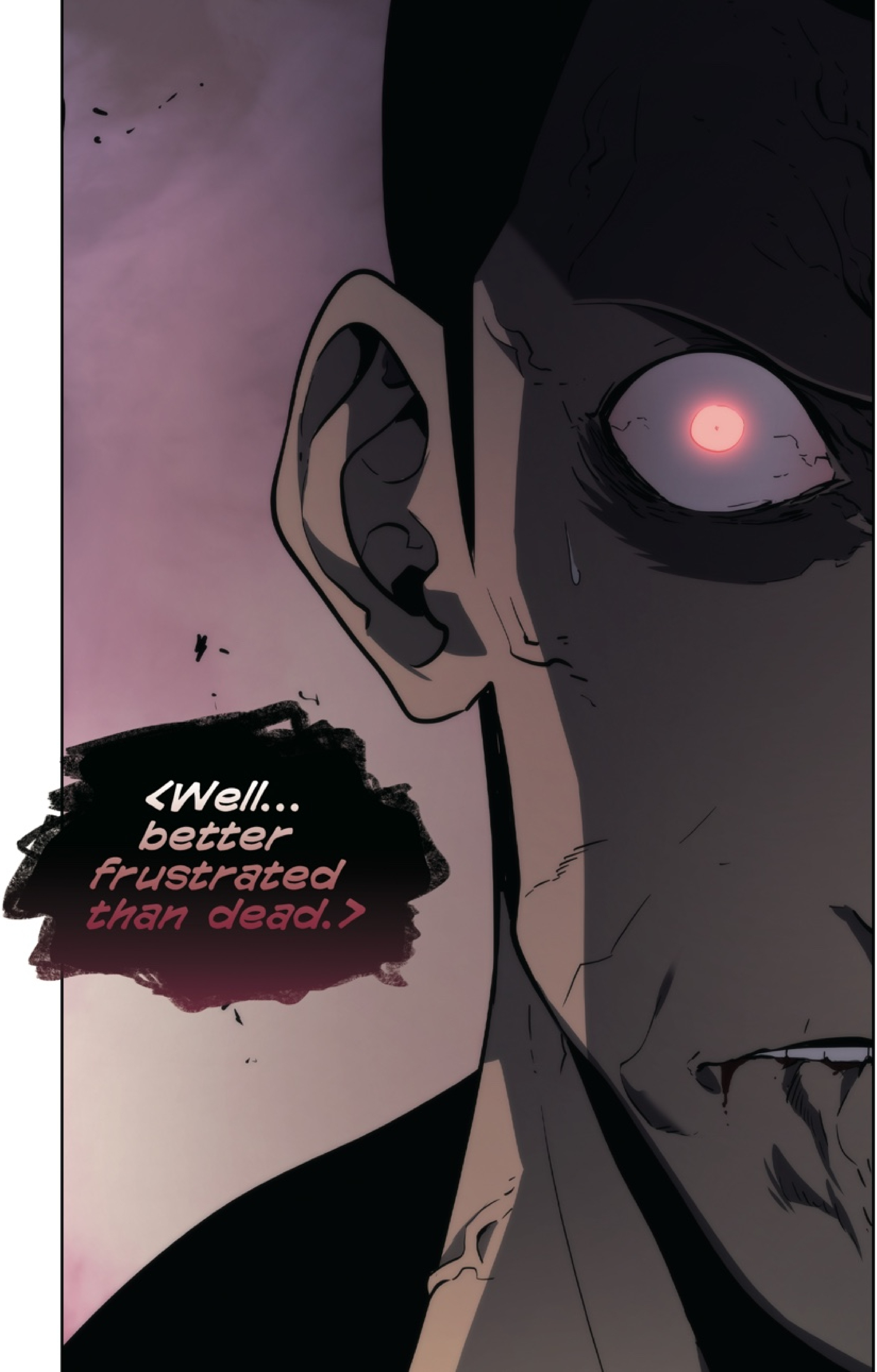

<Keep your mouth shut...>
<Only a handful of hunters could threaten an S-rank hunter like that...>
<...and Thomas is one of them.>
<But...Dongsoo Hwang's will is just as strong as Thomas's.>
<Do not do anything to Jinwoo. >
<Heck, why don't you take a vacation at the guild villa for the duration of the conference?>

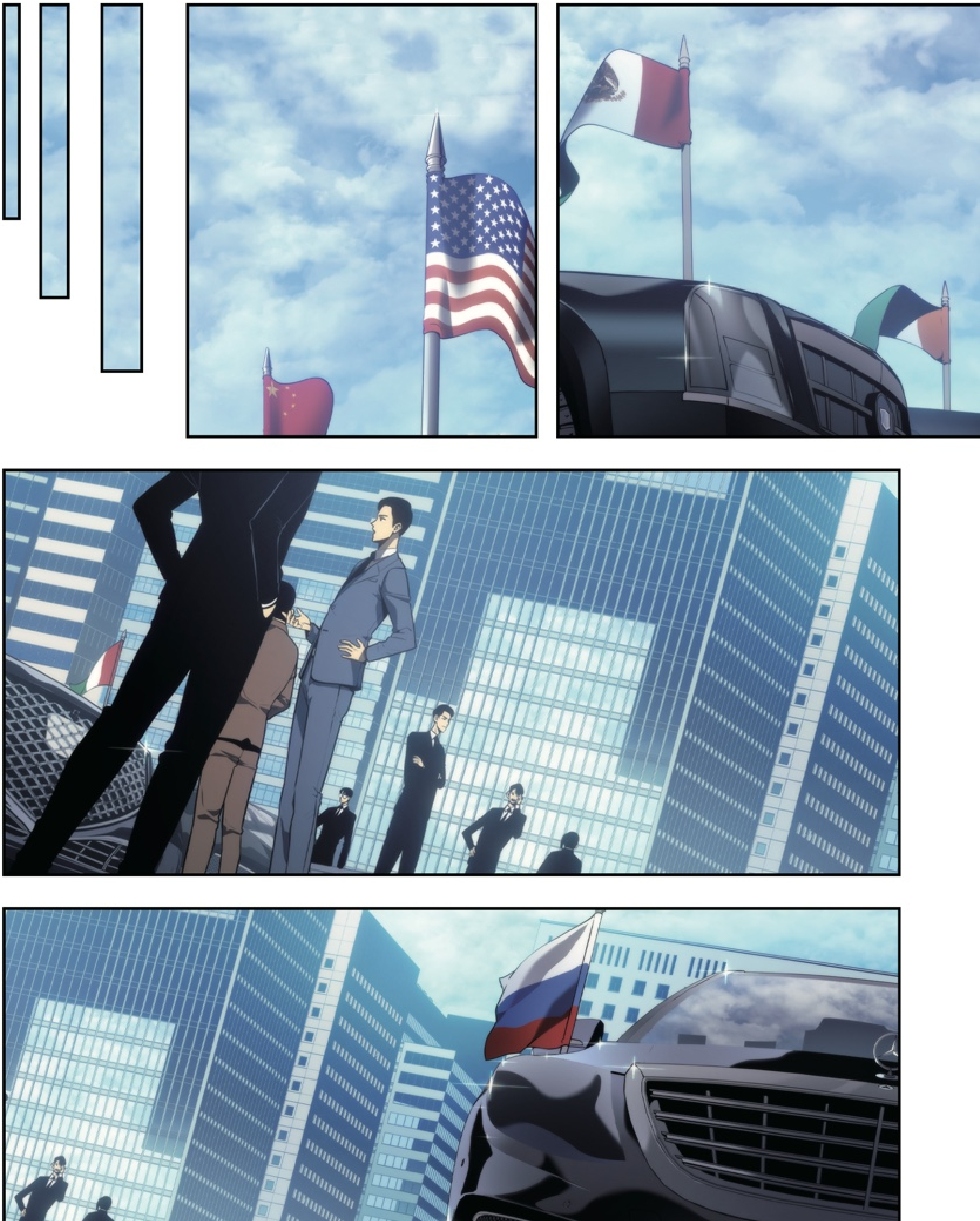
<Would you do that for me?>
<......>

<Mr. Hwang?>
<...Sure.>


<Good. You may leave now.>
TMP

TMP
TMP
<Do you think that will do, sir?>
<Not at all. He isn't ready to let go of his brother's death.>
<Laura, keep a close eye on Mr. Hwang until Jinwoo leaves the U.S.>
<Will he... be okay with that?>


<Well... better frustrated than dead.>



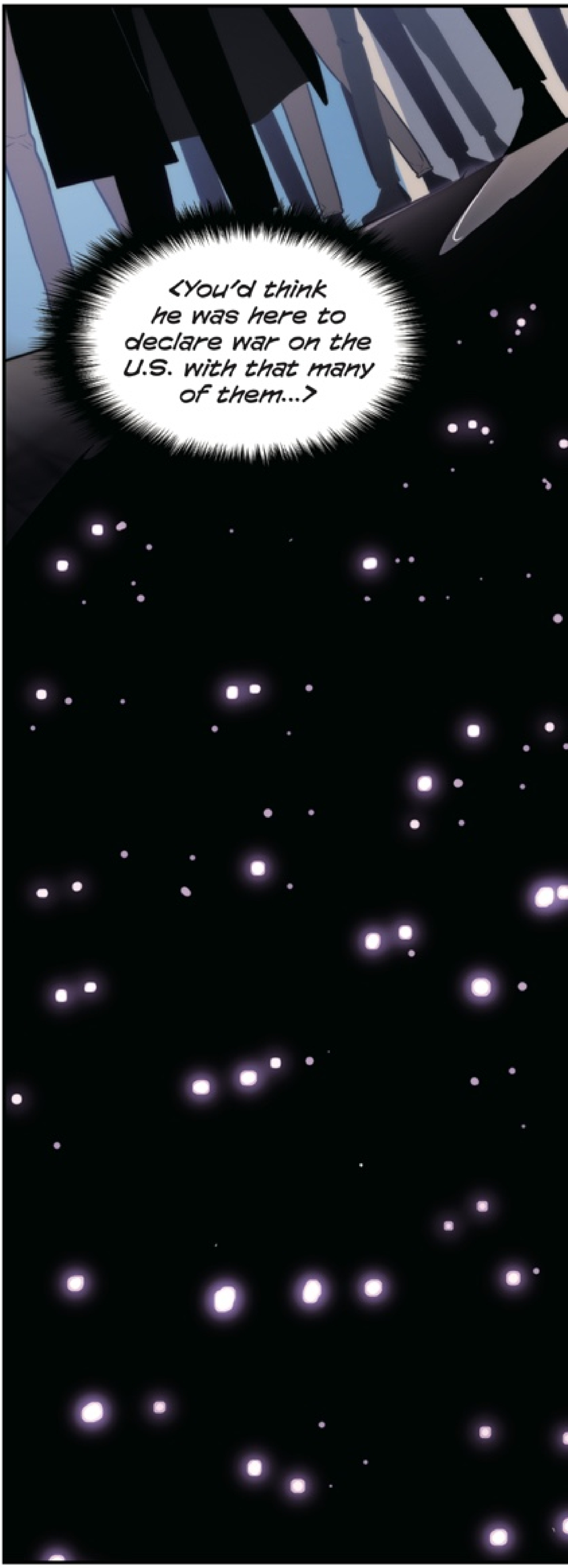
USA

TMP
TMP

<Why are there so many reporters here?>
<That popular Korean hunter is arriving today.>
<Ah, I see. So he's coming, eh?>
REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY: RICHTER GUILD LENNART NEIRMANN

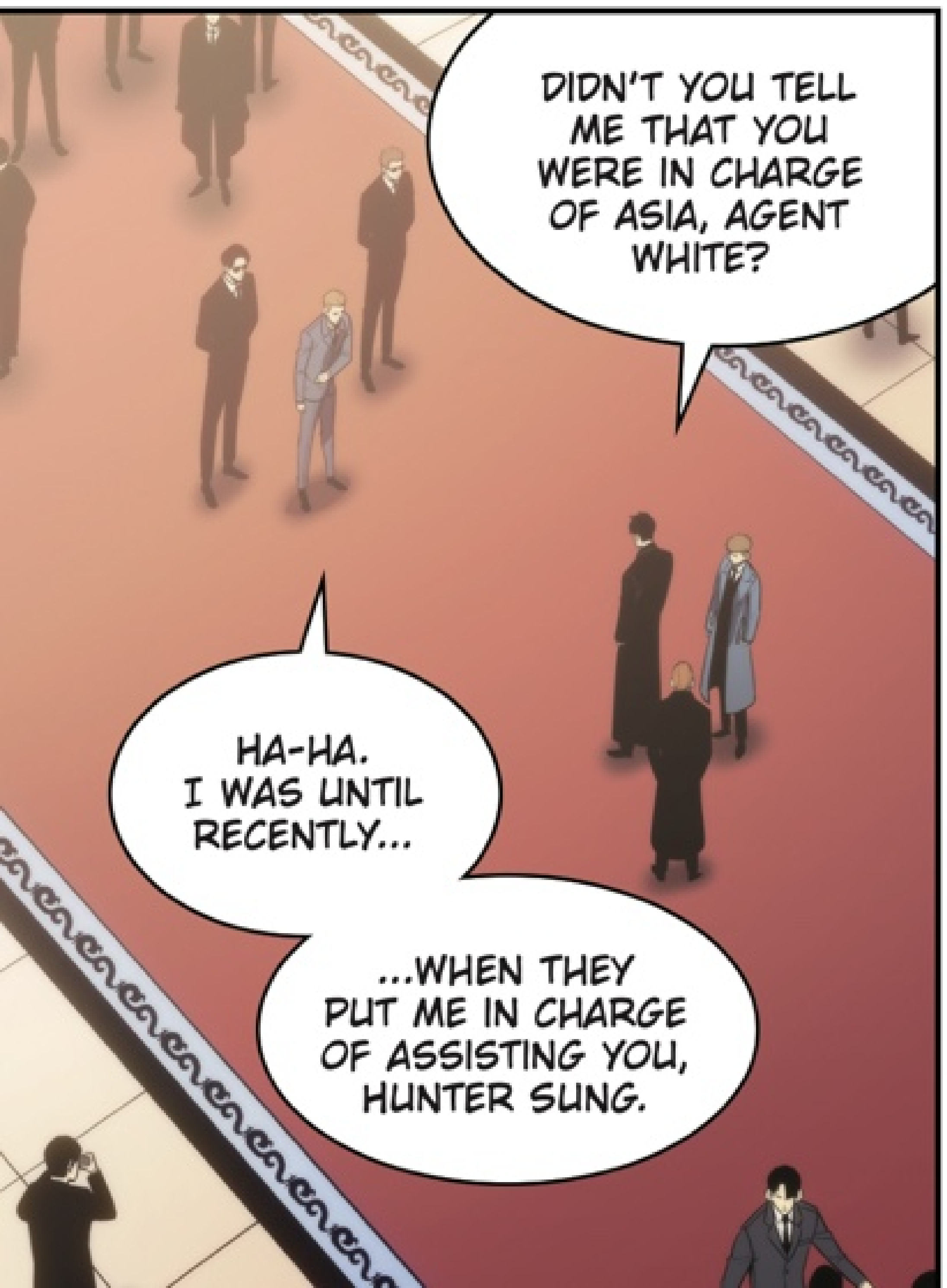
<Oh, there he is.>
<Shall we introduce ourselves?>
<It's not a bad idea to get acquainted with the mighty hunter.>
FREEZE
<Aren't you coming, sir?>
<Don't you... see them?>
<Excuse me?>
<I thought he summoned his minions from a different dimension...>

<...but he actually carries them around with him like this?>

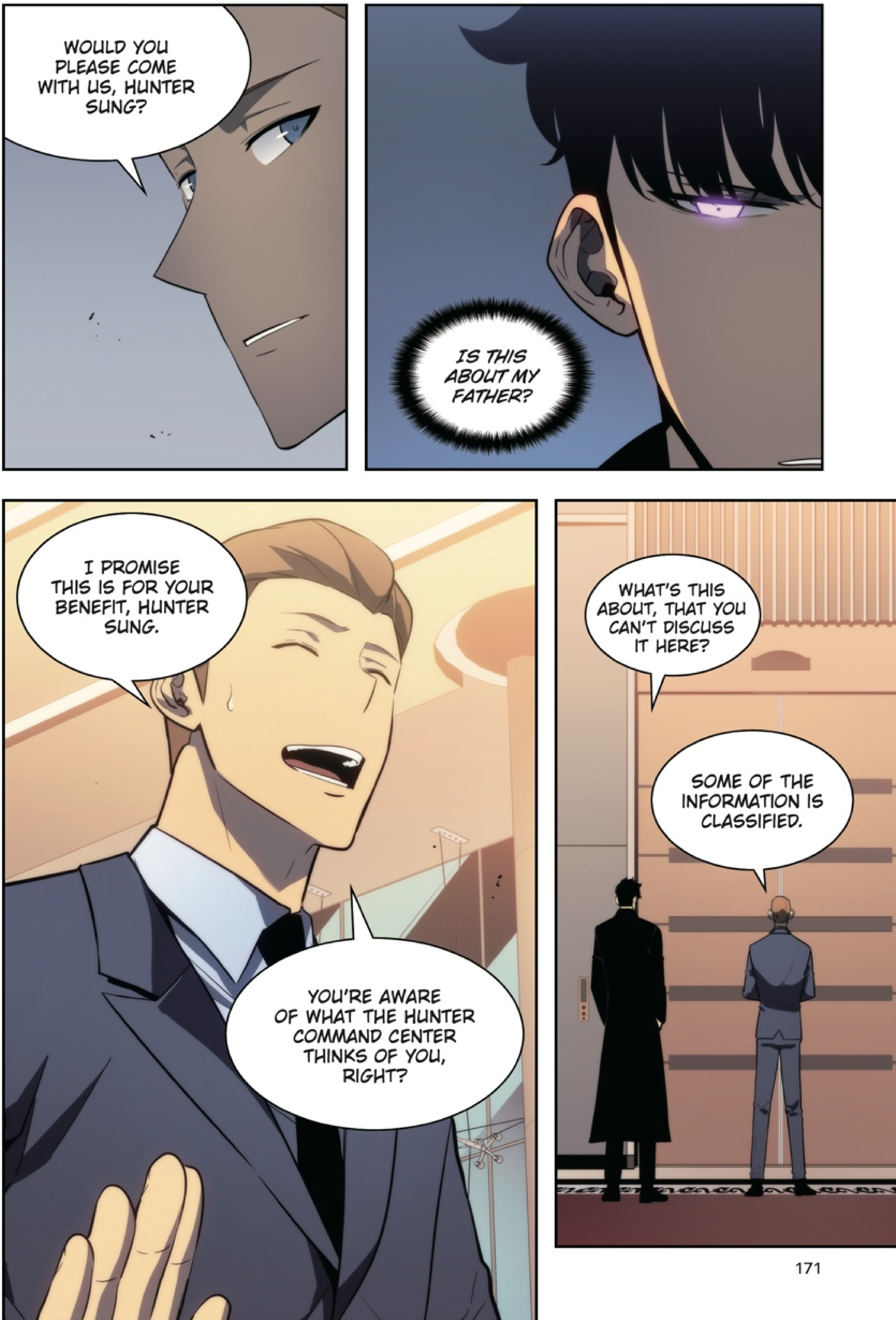

<You'd think he was here to declare war on the U.S. with that many of them...>

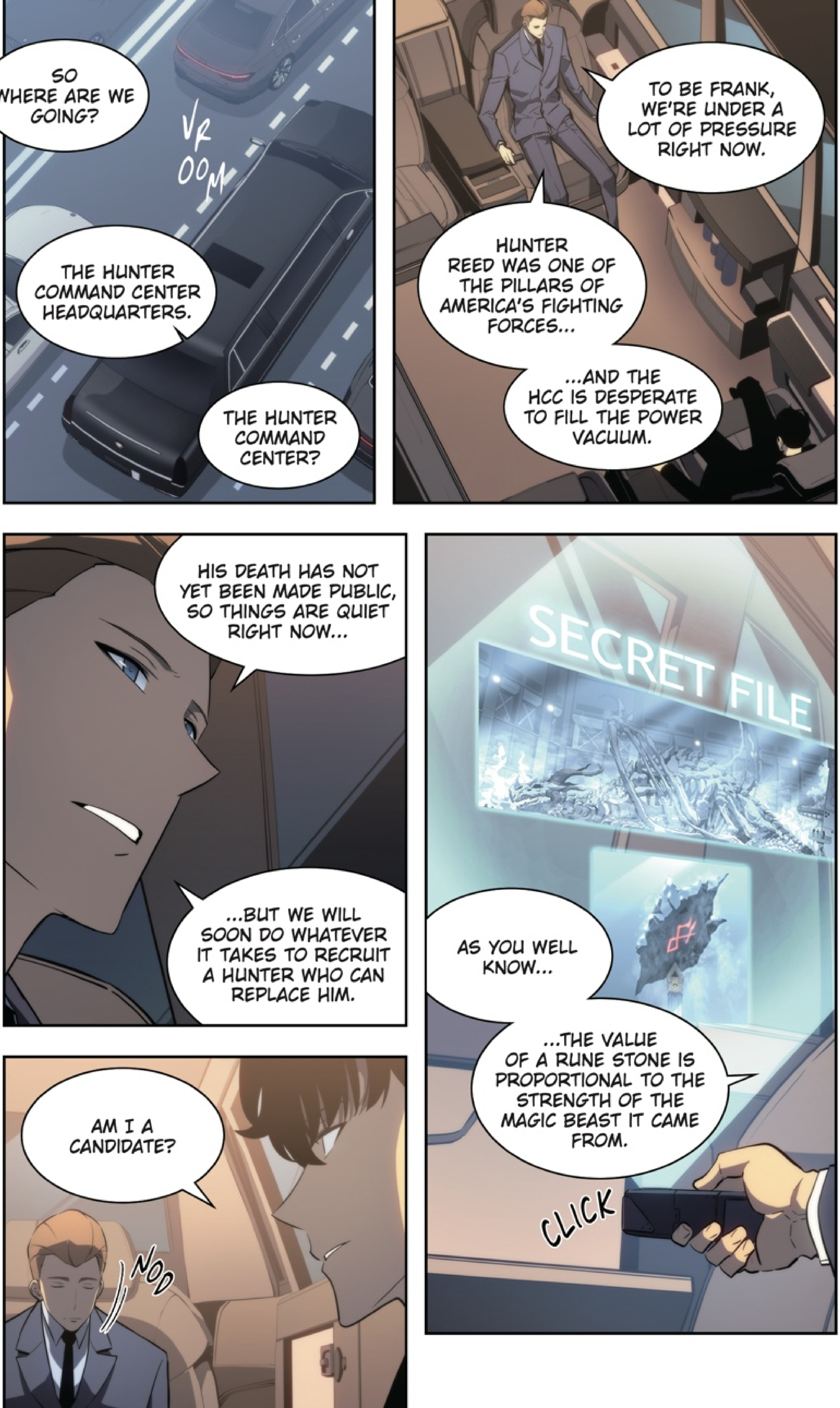
DID YOU SEE SOMEONE YOU KNOW, BOSS?
NO. SOME EUROPEAN GUY KEPT STARING AT ME, SO...
YOU'VE BEEN ALL OVER THE NEWS, SO YOU'VE GOT MORE THAN A FEW FANS!
HE PROBABLY JUST WANTED YOUR AUTOGRAPH, BOSS.
BY THE WAY, WHY DID YOU COME WITH US, DIRECTOR WOO?
KOFF!
I'M IN CHARGE OF... GUARDING HUNTER SUNG.
HEH!
SORRY, WHAT DID YOU SAY?
...In charge... guarding...
WHO ARE YOU GUARDING?
OVER THERE. I THINK THEY'RE HERE FOR US.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, HUNTER SUNG.


DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF ASIA, AGENT WHITE?
HA-HA. I WAS UNTIL RECENTLY...
...WHEN THEY PUT ME IN CHARGE OF ASSISTING YOU, HUNTER SUNG.

EVERYONE EXCEPT HUNTER SUNG WILL BE ESCORTED TO THE HOTEL.
JINHO, GO TO THE HOTEL WITH DIRECTOR WOO.
YES, BOSS.


WOULD YOU PLEASE COME WITH US, HUNTER SUNG?
IS THIS ABOUT MY FATHER?
I PROMISE THIS IS FOR YOUR BENEFIT, HUNTER SUNG.
YOU'RE AWARE OF WHAT THE HUNTER COMMAND CENTER THINKS OF YOU, RIGHT?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT, THAT YOU CAN'T DISCUSS IT HERE?
SOME OF THE INFORMATION IS CLASSIFIED.


SO WHERE ARE WE GOING?
VROOM
THE HUNTER COMMAND CENTER HEADQUARTERS.
THE HUNTER COMMAND CENTER?
TO BE FRANK, WE'RE UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE RIGHT NOW.
HUNTER REED WAS ONE OF THE PILLARS OF AMERICA'S FIGHTING FORCES...
...AND THE HCC IS DESPERATE TO FILL THE POWER VACUUM.
HIS DEATH HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE PUBLIC, SO THINGS ARE QUIET RIGHT NOW...
...BUT WE WILL SOON DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO RECRUIT A HUNTER WHO CAN REPLACE HIM.
AM I A CANDIDATE?
NOD
SECRET FILE
AS YOU WELL KNOW...
...THE VALUE OF A RUNE STONE IS PROPORTIONAL TO THE STRENGTH OF THE MAGIC BEAST IT CAME FROM.
CLICK

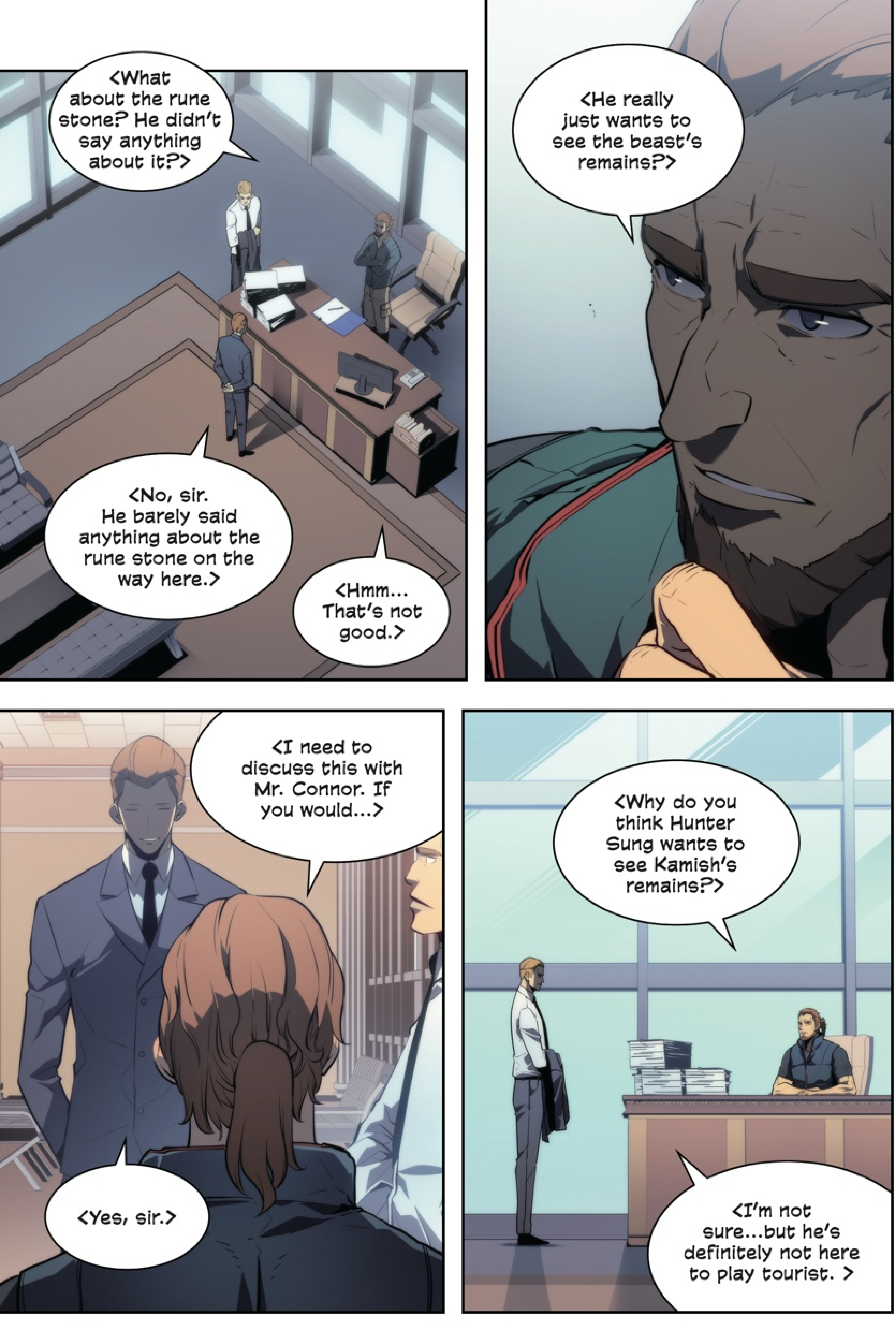
IT WAS THE WORST DISASTER IN HUMAN HISTORY AND THE RAID MOST PEOPLE WANT TO FORGET—
THE DRAGON KAMISH.

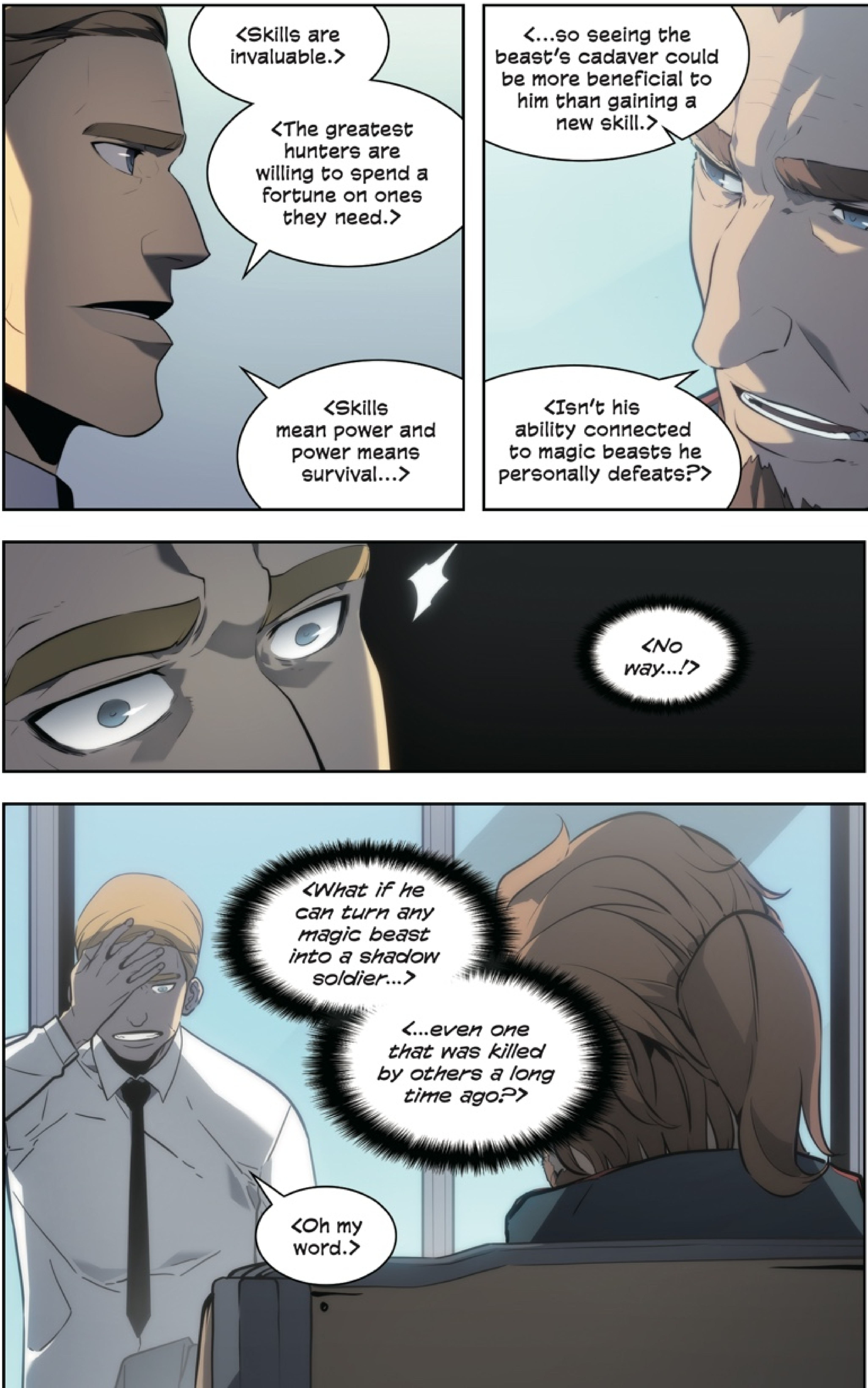
KAMISH'S PRECIOUS RUNE STONE...
WE'RE LOOKING FOR A NEW OWNER.

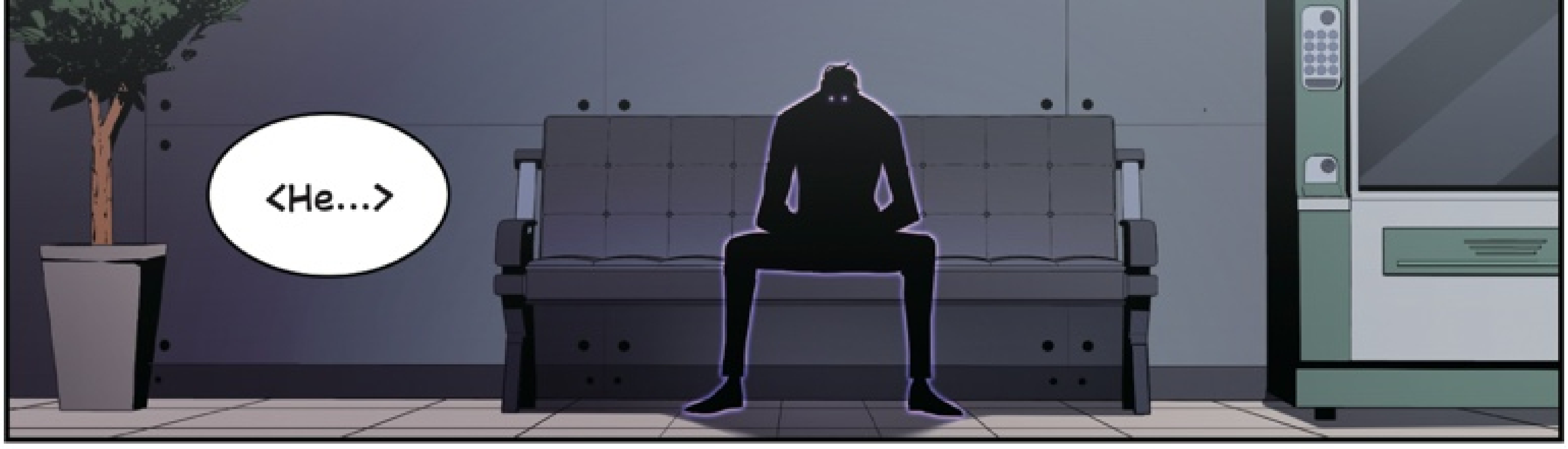
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT OUR OFFER?

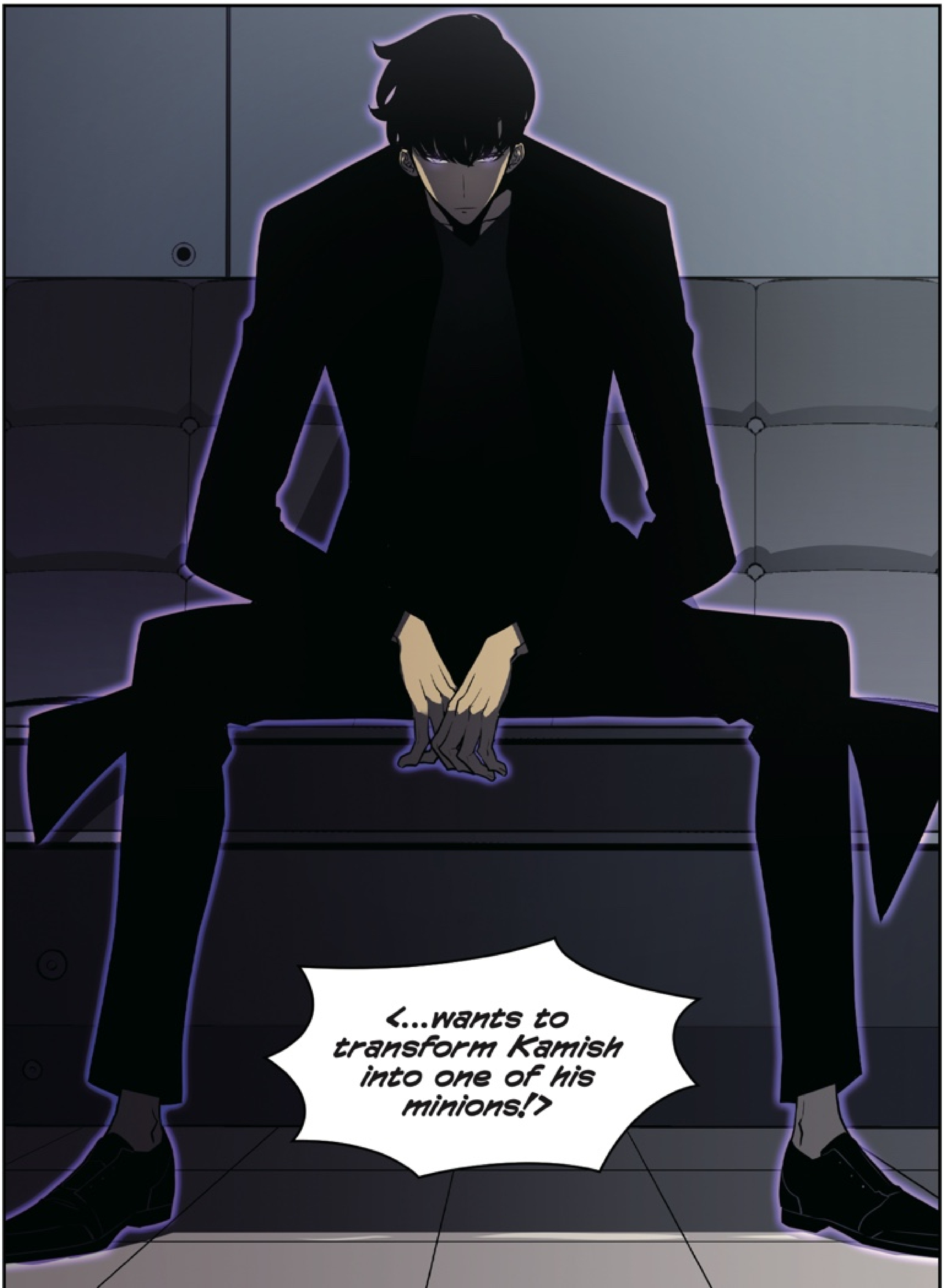
...CAN...
CAN YOU GO BACK TO THE PREVIOUS PICTURES?
PARDON ME?
I WANT TO SEE THE ONE BEFORE THIS.
YOU MEAN KAMISH'S CORPSE?
DID THE U.S. PRESERVE KAMISH'S CORPSE?
Y-YES, THAT'S RIGHT...
WHERE IS THIS? LET'S GO THERE.
PARDON ME?
I'VE BEEN HUMORING THE HUNTER COMMAND CENTER ALL THIS TIME.
YOU CAN GRANT ME THIS ONE REQUEST, CAN'T YOU?

I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW WHERE KAMISH'S REMAINS ARE LOCATED...
...AS IT'S STRICTLY ON A NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS.
HOWEVER, I'M SURE I CAN GET THE CLEARANCE IF IT'S FOR YOU, HUNTER SUNG.
I'LL HAVE TO REPORT THE SITUATION TO MY SUPERIOR FIRST, SO WOULD YOU MIND WAITING?
I'LL GO WITH YOU AND WAIT THERE.
<So Hunter Sung is here? Now?>


<What about the rune stone? He didn't say anything about it?>
<No, sir. He barely said anything about the rune stone on the way here.>
<Hmm... That's not good.>
<He really just wants to see the beast's remains?>
<I need to discuss this with Mr. Connor. If you would...>
<Yes, sir.>
<Why do you think Hunter Sung wants to see Kamish's remains?>
<I'm not sure...but he's definitely not here to play tourist. >


<Skills are invaluable.>
<The greatest hunters are willing to spend a fortune on ones they need.>
<Skills mean power and power means survival...>
<...so seeing the beast's cadaver could be more beneficial to him than gaining a new skill.>
<Isn't his ability connected to magic beasts he personally defeats?>
<No way...!>
<What if he can turn any magic beast into a shadow soldier...>
<...even one that was killed by others a long time ago?>
<Oh my word.>


<He...>


<...wants to transform Kamish into one of his minions!>

CLATTER
<What...? We cannot allow that to happen.>
<No person should wield that much power!>
<But...if we reject him, it will put a strain on our relationship.>
<Hmm...>
<I see.>
TMP
<I'll take him there myself.>
<This may be a good opportunity to witness his abilities.>

15
<I would have rather talked to you someplace quiet...>

<...but I thought you would prefer to make haste.>

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY BUILT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE HUNTER COMMAND CENTER ON THE SPOT WHERE THEY KILLED KAMISH.

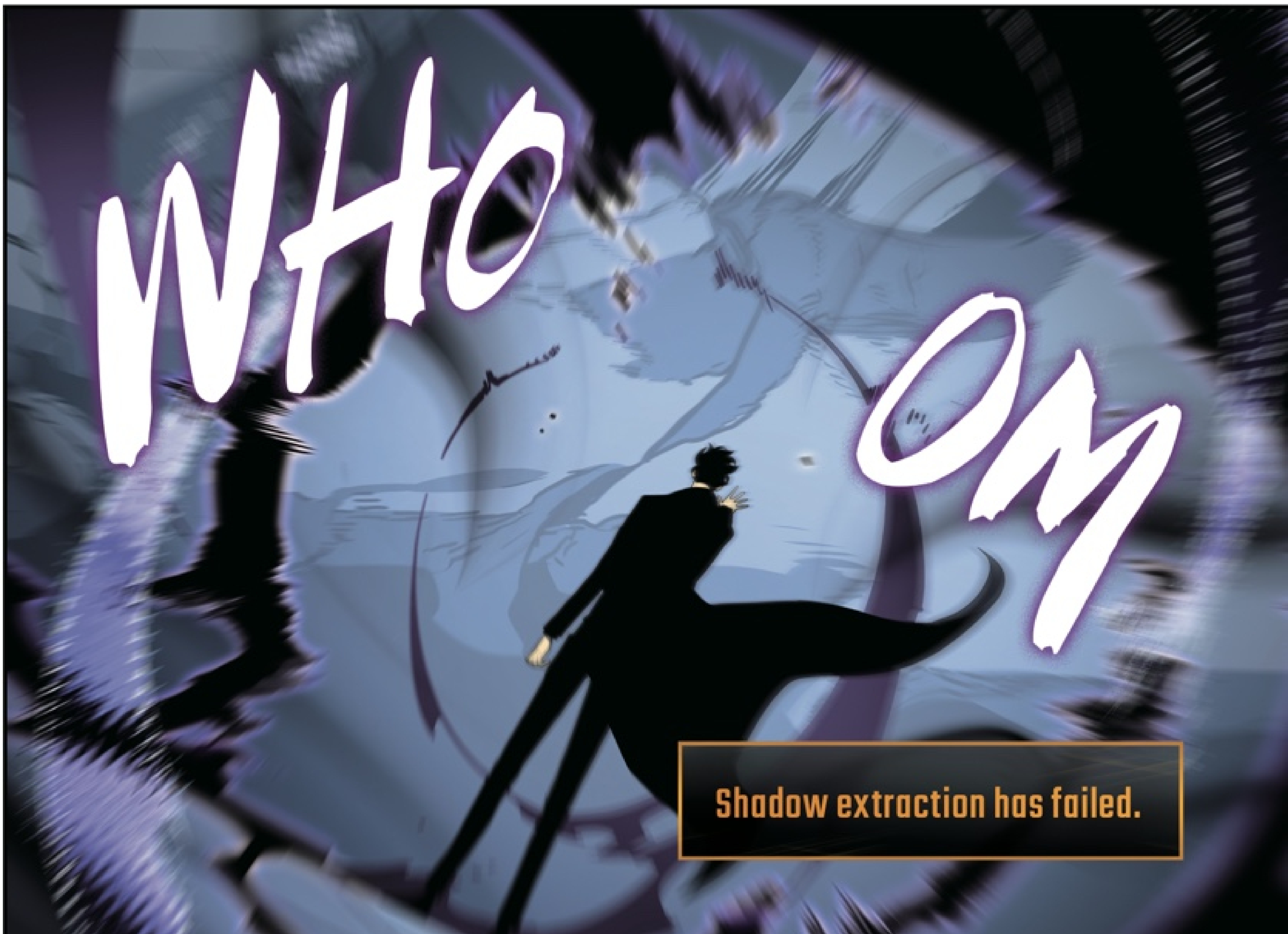
<Come this way.>
THERE IS MANA IN THE WIND.
BEEP
BEEP
IF KAMISH'S BODY STILL HAS MAGIC POWER LEFT EVEN AFTER IT'S BEEN DEAD FOR EIGHT YEARS, HOW MUCH POWER WILL ITS SHADOW SOLDIER POSSESS?
RUMBLE

<It looks just the same as it did...>
<...the day the national-level hunters stopped its final rampage.>
<All of the electricity used in our building comes from Kamish's essence stone.>
<Hunter Sung, are you satisfied now?>
TMP
PLEASE STEP BACK.

<Mr. Brannon, will this be okay?>
<He has my permission.>
<Everyone, let's just observe...>
<...what happens.>

SHF

ARISE.


WHOOM
Shadow extraction has failed.

You have two attempts remaining.
WHEW...

ARISE.
WHOOSH
FSHHHH

GROOOAR!

BAM
BAM
KLANG
KLANG
WHOOSH
GRRR...

Is it you who has summoned me?

Shadow Monarch, King of the Dead.

<Uh, umm...>
<H-how...?>
FALTER
<What the hell is that...?>
HUMANS...
KILL... HUMANS.
ALL OF YOU...
KRIK
KRIK
I WILL KILL ALL OF YOU.

<That's tempered glass with mana from our highest-level hunters, but...>
CRA
ASH
FWOOM
<Mr. Brannon, we need to get out of here!>
<Kamish's breath!>
<How do you escape it?>
STOP!

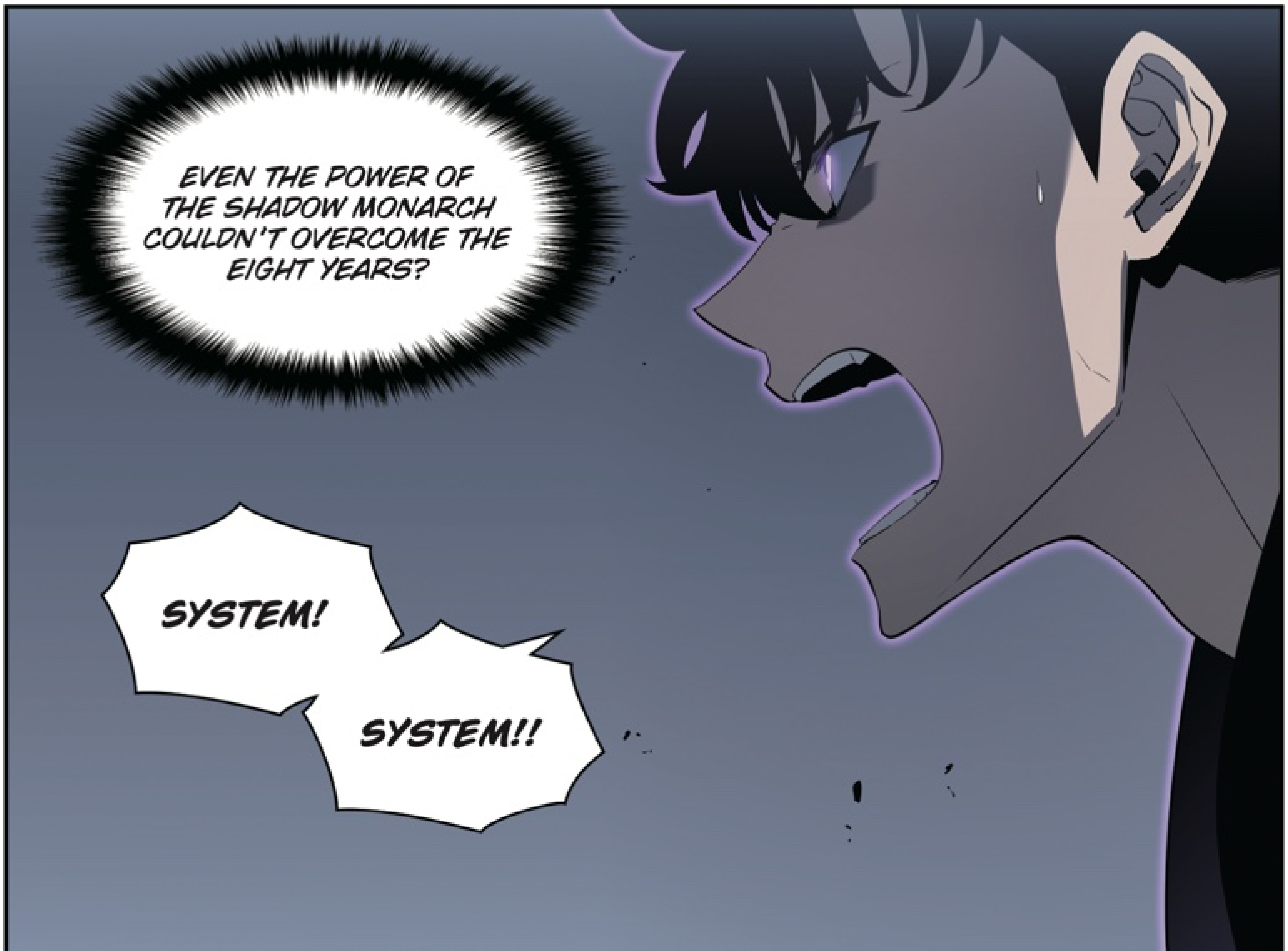
FSHH
THE ESSENCE STONE THAT WAS ONCE INSIDE YOUR HEAD WAS TAKEN A LONG TIME AGO.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THE RULERS ANYMORE.
<I-is he speaking the language of magic beasts?>
<I don't know what to make of what I'm seeing right now.>
SO THIS IS HOW IT FEELS TO BE SUBORDINATE TO THE SHADOW MONARCH...
THIS FORMER SERVANT OF THE DRAGON KING...
...BOWS DOWN TO ITS NEW MASTER.

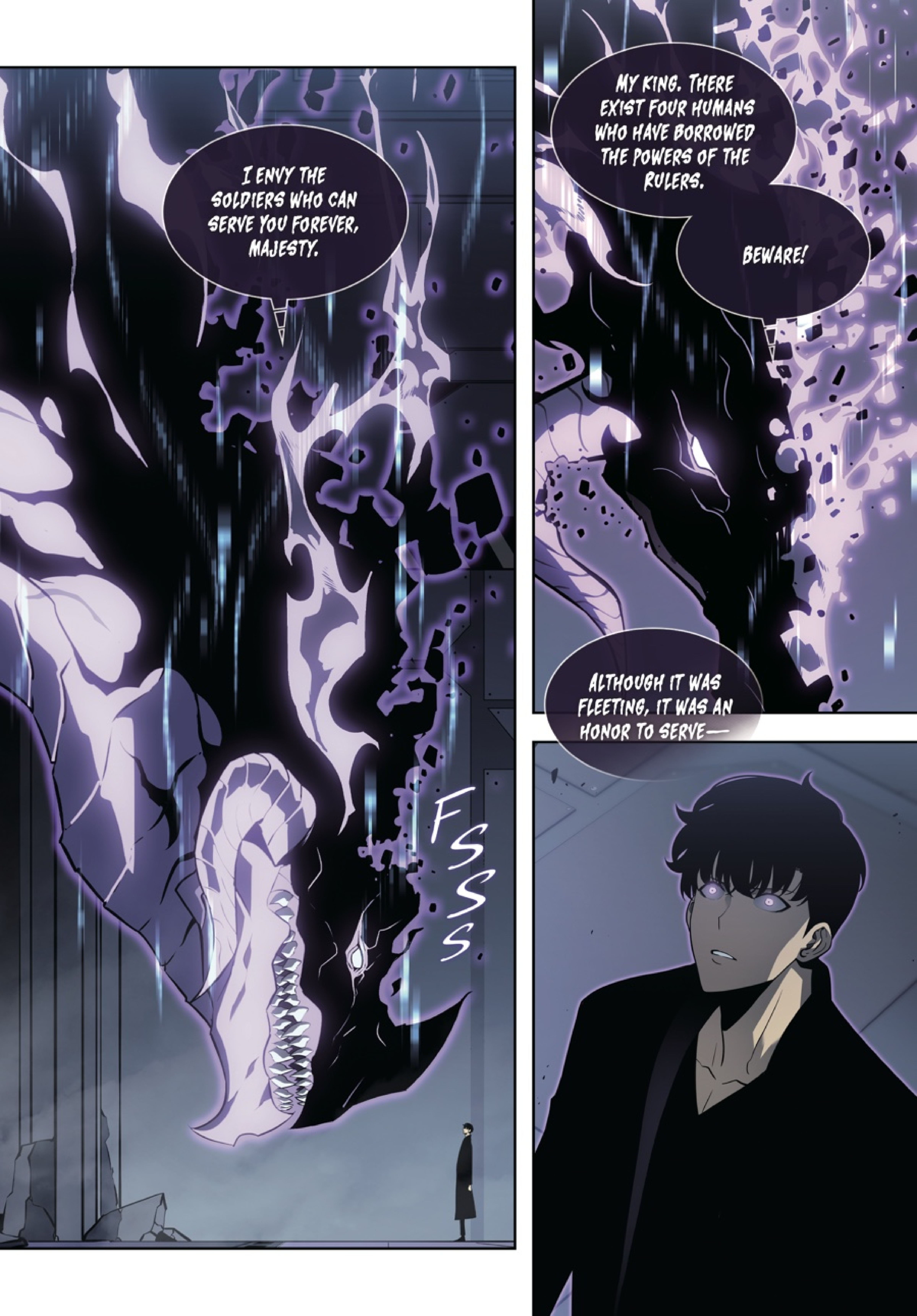
YOU USED TO SERVE THE DRAGON KING?
THAT IS RIGHT, MY KING.
I SERVED THE KING OF WILD DRAGONS, THE MONARCH OF DESTRUCTION.
SO MUCH ANGER... I CAN'T BELIEVE A SHADOW SOLDIER'S EGO CAN BE THIS STRONG.
THIS ONE IS A HIGHER LEVEL THAN ANY MONSTER I'VE EVER MET.
WAG
WAG
IT DEFINITELY USED TO BE A POWERFUL BEING.
WAG
WAG
<Mr. Connor, is Kamish...wagging its tail now?>
<......>

THE KING OF THE DEAD— THE SHADOW MONARCH.
AND THE KING OF GIANTS—THE MONARCH OF THE BEGINNING.
IS ITS FORMER MASTER ONE OF THE NINE MONARCHS I HEARD ABOUT FROM THE SYSTEM?

ALAS, MY KING, I BELIEVE IT IS TIME FOR ME TO BID YOU FAREWELL.
WHAT?

IT APPEARS WE'VE MET A LITTLE TOO LATE.
FSHHH


EVEN THE POWER OF THE SHADOW MONARCH COULDN'T OVERCOME THE EIGHT YEARS?
SYSTEM!
SYSTEM!!


I ENVY THE SOLDIERS WHO CAN SERVE YOU FOREVER, MAJESTY.
FSSS
MY KING. THERE EXIST FOUR HUMANS WHO HAVE BORROWED THE POWERS OF THE RULERS.
BEWARE!
ALTHOUGH IT WAS FLEETING, IT WAS AN HONOR TO SERVE—

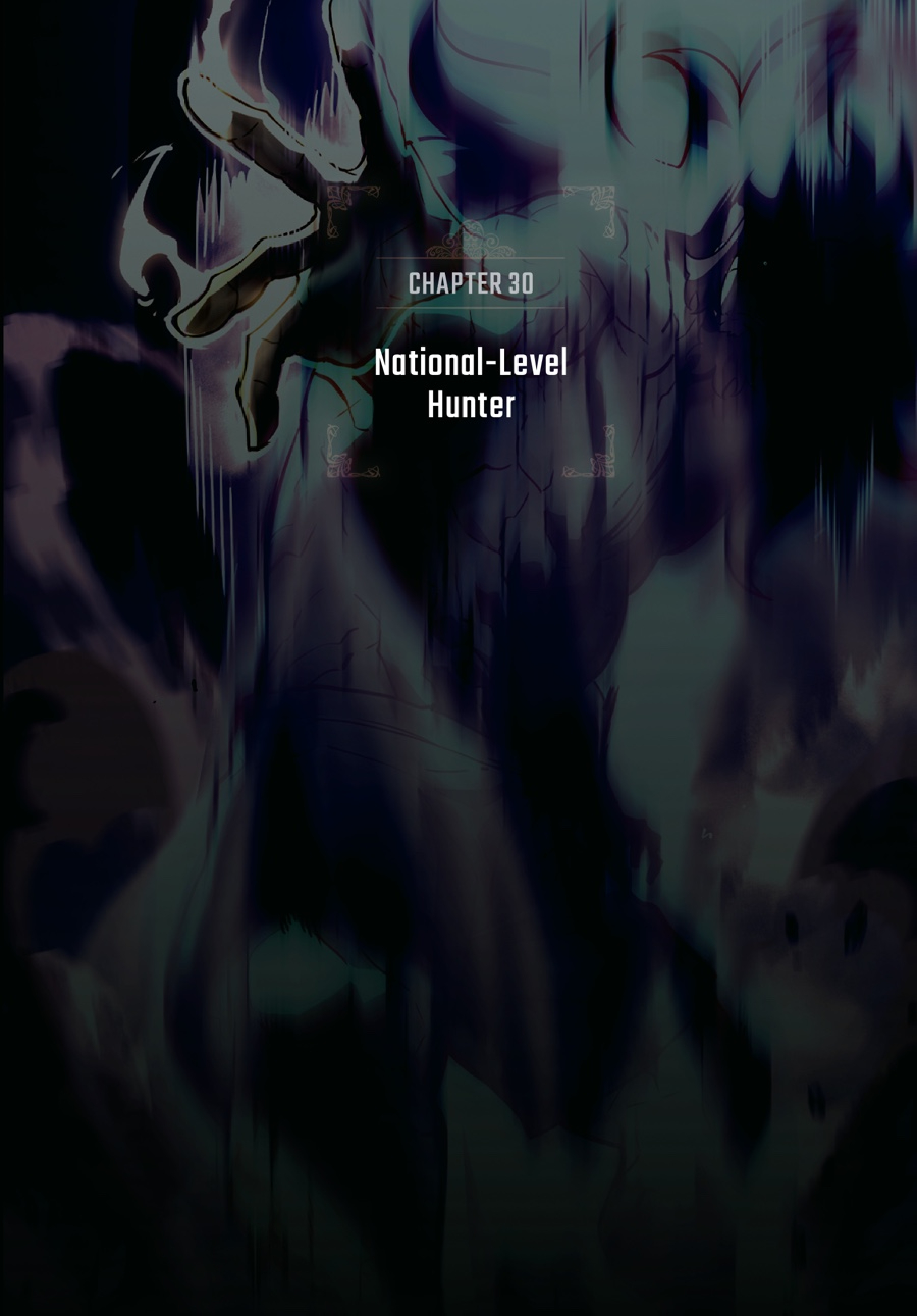
Shadow extraction has failed.
FWIIISH
The subject's shadow has returned to the Void.

Too much time has elapsed since the subject's time of death, rendering the extraction futile.

...MR. WHITE, PLEASE TELL MR. BRANNON THAT I'M SORRY.
ALSO, PLEASE TELL HIM THAT I'LL PAY TO FIX THIS PLACE AS BEST AS I CAN.
YES...

TMP
TMP
WHAM
CRUMBLE
GRIT

Solo Leveling


CHAPTER 30
National-Level
Hunter

HUNTER SUNG, IT'S BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH YOU.
OH, I WAS SOMEWHERE THAT DIDN'T HAVE CELL SERVICE.
DID YOU SEE HUNTER YOO THERE?
PARDON?
HUNTER YOO SAID HE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM YOU.

HE WENT TO MEET YOU AT HUNTER COMMAND CENTER HQ...
I JUST GOT BACK FROM THERE. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HUNTER YOO WASN'T IN THE VISITORS LOG.
HUH? BUT...
...AN S-RANK HUNTER FROM SCAVENGER GUILD PICKED HIM UP TWO HOURS AGO.
SCAVENGER GUILD AND THE HUNTER COMMAND CENTER HAVE A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP. BUT THEY DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO ACT AS AGENTS OF THE CENTER.
IT'LL BE FASTER TO ASK THEM DIRECTLY.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
<Are you saying Scavenger Guild picked up the vice president of Ahjin Guild?>
COULD IT BE...?
<Does Hunter Jinwoo Sung know about this?>
<No, he doesn't know anything yet.>
<Someone in Hunter Yoo's party reached out to us while he was at the Hunter Command Center.>

<We'll try to get to the bottom of this as soon as we can.>
<Huh...?>
<Hunter Sung! Scavenger Guild is looking into it, so I'll contact you when—>

THIS IS MY FAULT.
TMP
I DIDN'T ASSIGN A GUARDIAN SHADOW SOLDIER TO JINHO AFTER USING THE SHADOW EXCHANGE.
IF SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENS LIKE LAST TIME...

COME OUT.

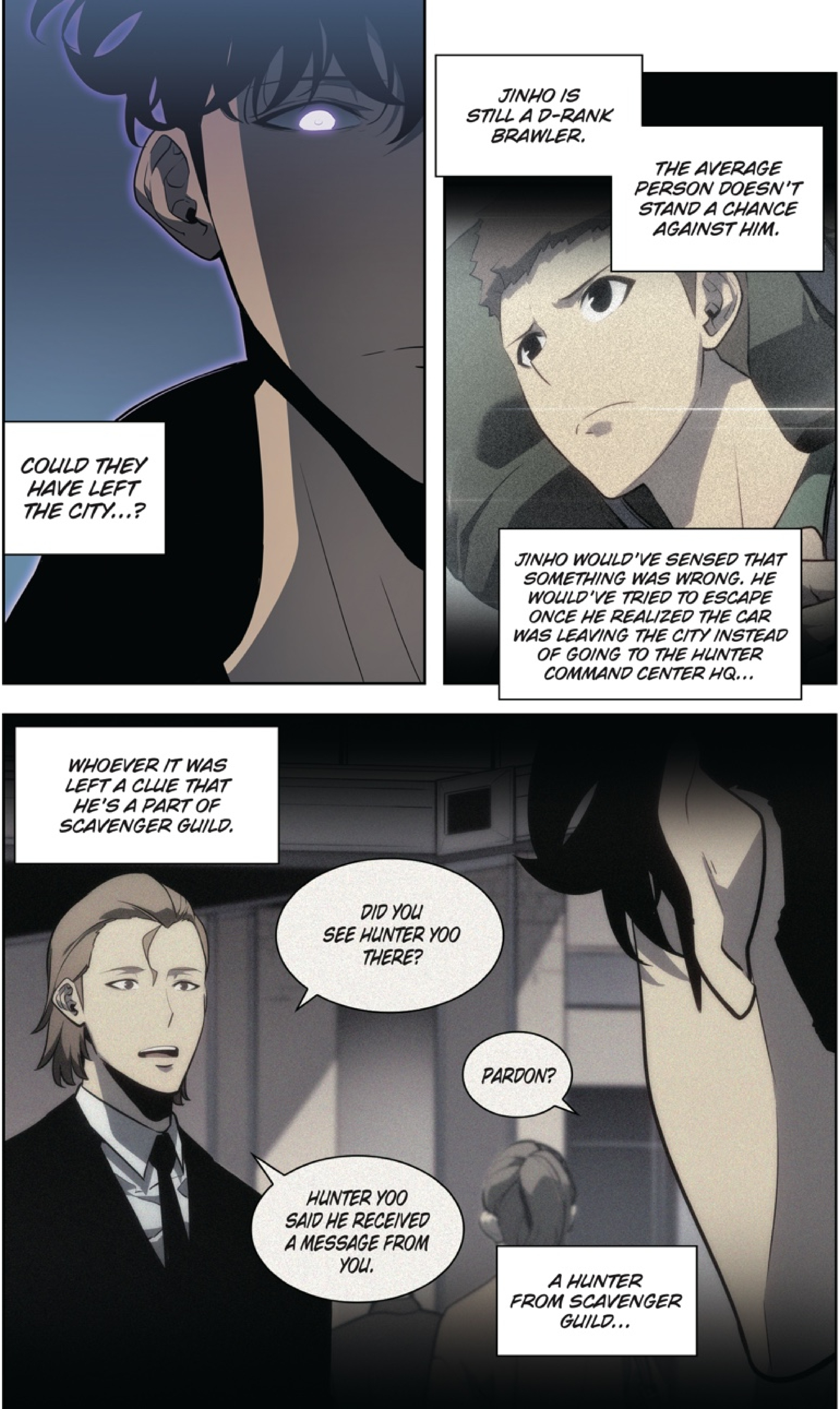
FSH
HHHHH

ZOOM
FIND HIM.
WHOOOOSH

<Now he's done it.>
<Dongsoo Hwang...>
CRUSH
<Find Dongsoo Hwang before Jinwoo does.>
<Do whatever it takes.>

<We have to find him first, no matter what.>

<Smith! How are you these days?>
<Unfortunately our store doesn't allow refunds just because you changed yo mind...>
<Why weren't you at the party las night?>



JINHO IS STILL A D-RANK BRAWLER.
THE AVERAGE PERSON DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HIM.
COULD THEY HAVE LEFT THE CITY...?
JINHO WOULD'VE SENSED THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG. HE WOULD'VE TRIED TO ESCAPE ONCE HE REALIZED THE CAR WAS LEAVING THE CITY INSTEAD OF GOING TO THE HUNTER COMMAND CENTER HQ...
WHOEVER IT WAS LEFT A CLUE THAT HE'S A PART OF SCAVENGER GUILD.
DID YOU SEE HUNTER YOO THERE?
PARDON?
HUNTER YOO SAID HE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM YOU.
A HUNTER FROM SCAVENGER GUILD...

DONGSOO HWANG, THE BROTHER OF DONGSUK HWANG.
HAS HE BEEN WAITING FOR US TO HIT U.S. SOIL...
...SO HE CAN FIND OUT WHO KILLED HIS BROTHER?

JINHO AND I ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO SURVIVED THAT DUNGEON.
YOU BASTARD!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO MY YOUNGER BROTHE—
DONGSOO HWANG PROBABLY SUSPECTS THAT WE KILLED HIS BROTHER.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT DIRECTOR WOO SAID HAS COME TRUE.
SINCE YOU'RE AN E-RANK, I DOUBT YOU BEAT B-RANK TAESIK KANG.
AND I FIND IT UNNECESSARY TO KEEP WONDERING IF YOU'RE A REAWAKENED BEING.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I SHOULD TELL YOU.
YOU MIGHT NOT BE LONG FOR THIS WORLD IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL.
THE INCIDENT WITH DONGSUK HWANG'S STRIKE SQUAD—
ONLY YOU AND A D-RANK HUNTER SURVIVED THAT.
THE PROBLEM IS, HWANG'S YOUNGER BROTHER DONGSOO MIGHT COME AFTER YOU TWO.
YOU MEAN DONGSOO HWANG, THE S-RANK HUNTER?
YES.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT ACTUALLY WENT DOWN.

IT WASN'T THAT CHAIRMAN YOO DIDN'T LOVE YOU, JINHO.
IT'S JUST THAT HIS EXPECTATIONS FOR YOU WERE AS BIG AS HIS LOVE.
I DON'T REGRET WHAT I DID BACK THEN, BUT...
BREAKS MY HEART.
IF I'D PLACED A GUARDIAN SOLDIER WITH JINHO, THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HIM...

<Any news?>
<Not yet, sir.>
<Doesn't he value his life?>
<No, as an S-rank hunter...>
<...Mr. Hwang is well aware of the power gap between Jinwoo Sung and him.>
<Hwang's only doing this...>
<...because he knows I have his back.>
<Have I been too soft on these hunters?>
<Laura, what's up?>

<I asked the Hunter Command Center for their cooperation, and they checked Mr. Hwang's pattern of movement in recent months.>
<He broke from his normal routine to go to an unknown location three separate times.>

<Send every single man there. I'll head over too.>
<Under-stood.>

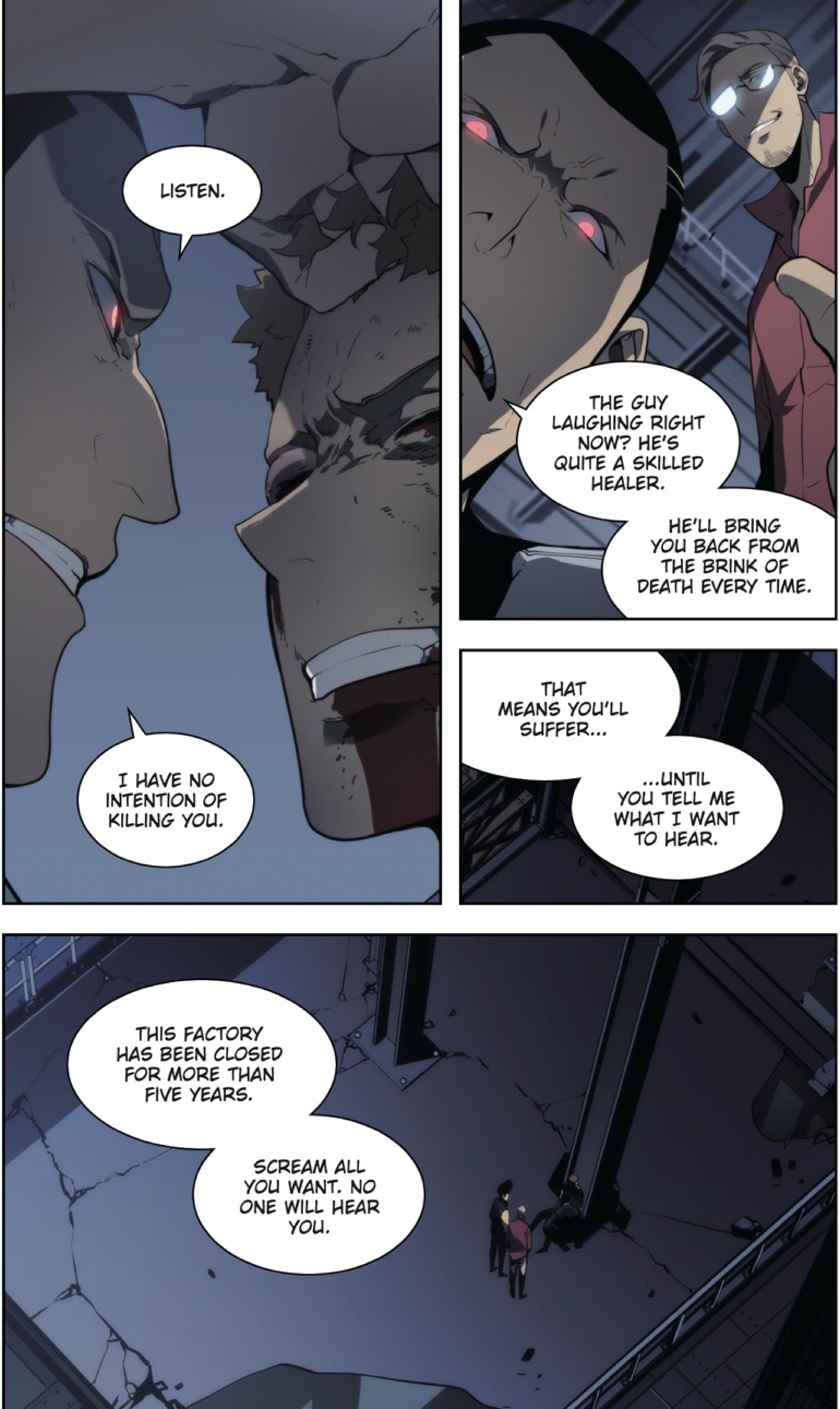
<By the way...>
<...How did you get those old fogeys at the Hunter Command Center to cooperate, Laura?>

<I told them that if we didn't find Hunter Hwang soon, you and Hunter Sung might come to blows.>
<The guild members have started moving!>
<All 100 of them?>
<They canceled a planned raid just now.>
<All their hunters are mobilizing.>
<All of Scavenger Guild is on the move...That means Thomas Andre authorized this.>
<This is not good.>
<What the heck...? What is going on?>

<You sure this is okay?>
<I'm not out to end him.>
<I only need to know one thing.>

MASTER THOMAS WARNED ME THAT JINWOO SUNG WAS NOT TO BE HARMED, BUT...
...I HAD NO INTENTION OF GOING FOR HIM ANYWAY.
BECAUSE THERE WAS ONE OTHER PERSON I COULD GET AN ANSWER OUT OF.
I PROMISED JINHO YOO THAT I'D LET HIM GO IF HE TOLD ME THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN THE DUNGEON THEY WENT INTO WITH MY BROTHER.
I JUST WANT TO HEAR ONE THING—
JINWOO KILLED YOUR BROTHER.
WITH THAT ONE SENTENCE, MY BUSINESS WITH JINHO WILL BE DONE.
YO! WAKE UP!
SLAP

I SAID, WAKE UP!!
WHUD
<This one's a tank all right.>
<Any other dude would be dead by now!>
<I don't know why this idiot just won't talk.>
<There's a fine line between brave and foolish, especially if it can get you out of this bind.>
SLAM


LISTEN.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF KILLING YOU.
THE GUY LAUGHING RIGHT NOW? HE'S QUITE A SKILLED HEALER.
HE'LL BRING YOU BACK FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH EVERY TIME.
THAT MEANS YOU'LL SUFFER...
...UNTIL YOU TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO HEAR.
THIS FACTORY HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS.
SCREAM ALL YOU WANT. NO ONE WILL HEAR YOU.

......
......OFF...
WHAT?

FUCK OFF.

WHAM

<Mr. Hwang, can you be a little more careful?>
<I don't want to be an accessory to murder.>
<...Noted.>
<Let's just go.>
<Haven't you pushed him enough?>
<What're you talking about?>

<I'm just getting started.>

<Huh?>
<What?>
<An orc?>
<Was there a dungeon break nearby?>
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
<How strange.>
<It looks like that beast is afraid of you, Mr. Hwang!>

<I don't have time for this.>
FL
ASH
EXCHANGE.

BUILDING 2
IS MY BABY GOING TO BE OKAY?
O MOTHER OF MY KING...
...IF ANYONE CAN SURVIVE A DUNGEON INCIDENT, IT IS YOUR SON.

Next up, the Hunter Command Center in the U.S. is hosting...
NEWS
JINAH, YOUR BROTHER IS ON TV!
REALLY?
MY KING...!
THIS FEELING...
I FELT THIS ONCE BEFORE.
MY KING IS FURIOUS.

WE'VE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF REPORTS OF INCIDENTS WITHIN DUNGEONS, SO PLEASE STAY FOCUSED, EVERYONE.
LET'S GET HOME WITHOUT A SINGLE PERSON HARMED.
YES, SIR!
AH!
WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?
B-BOSS! THE SHADOW BENEATH YOUR FEET...IT JUST MOVED—
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO DRINK BEFORE A RAID?
THAT'S NOT IT, BOSS. I HAVEN'T HAD A SINGLE DROP TODAY!
I SWEAR YOUR SHADOW REALLY MOVED LIKE IT WAS ALIVE!
OKAY, YOU NEED TO SIT TODAY OUT.
BOSS! I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH!!

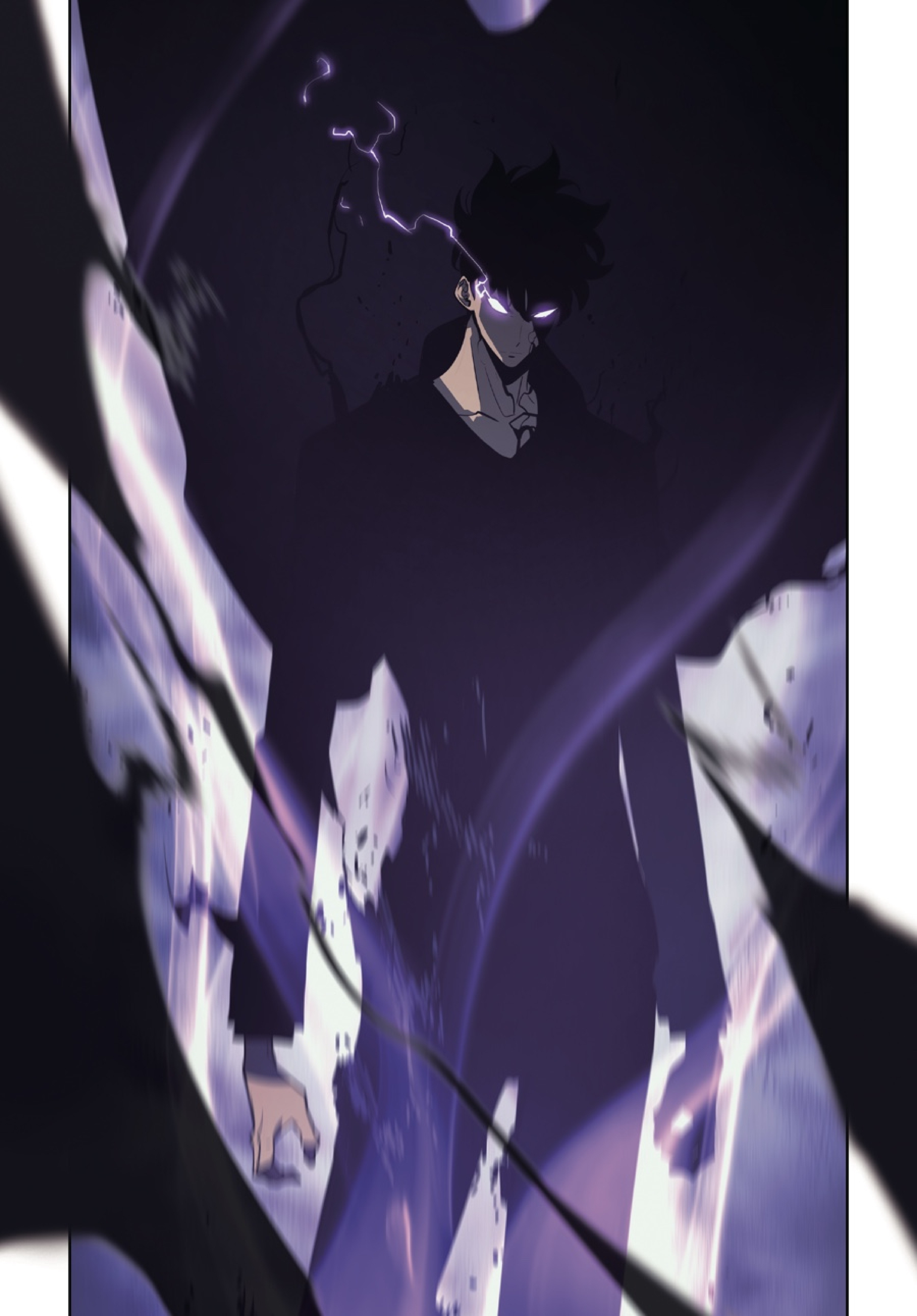
VROOM
<Stop the car!>
<Pardon?>
<I said, stop the car!>
<Damn it... It's already begun!>
WHAM

SKRRT
SLAM
BAM
KA-BOOM
<I'll go ahead. Meet me there!>
<Yes, sir!>

<We're going to have to pay for the damage he's caused again...>
<I know. Why couldn't he just drive there? Sigh...>

WHACK

KLEGH!
CRAAAASH
TMP



POUR
Healing potions cannot recover HP when it dips below 10 percent of the total HP.
Healing potions cannot recover HP when it dips below 10 percent of the total HP.
ARE EITHER OF YOU A HEALER?

HEAL JINHO.

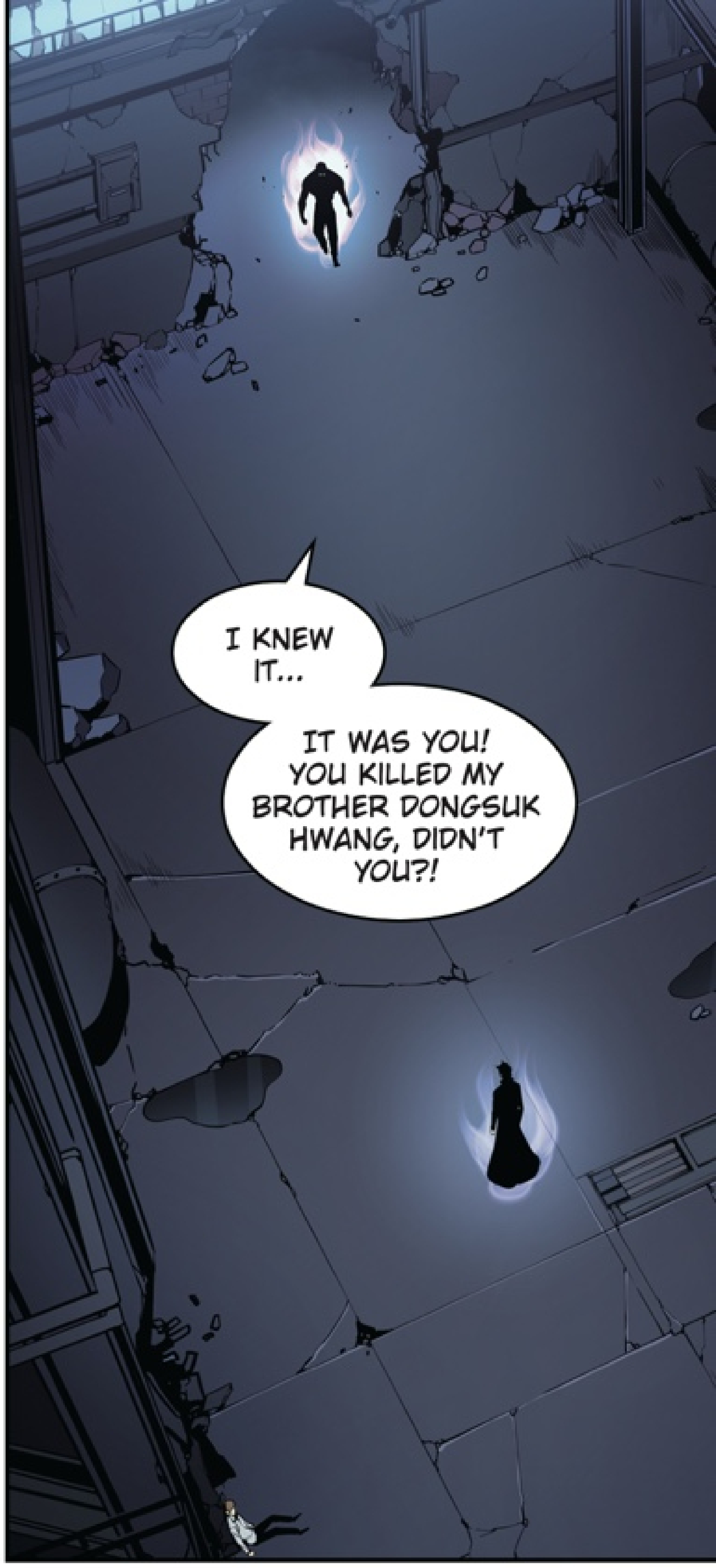
<Uh... We don't understand Korean...>

<Jinwoo Sung says to heal the guy.>

THIS IS OUR FIRST TIME MEETING IN PERSON, ISN'T IT...
...JINWOO SUNG?
THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'M GOING TO TELL YOU.
HEAL JINHO.
<You'll have to persuade my boss fir—>

WH
AM
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
<Mr. Hwang! You never said this had anything to do with Jinwoo Sung!>
I ASKED IF YOU WERE A HEALER.
<N-no. I'm—>

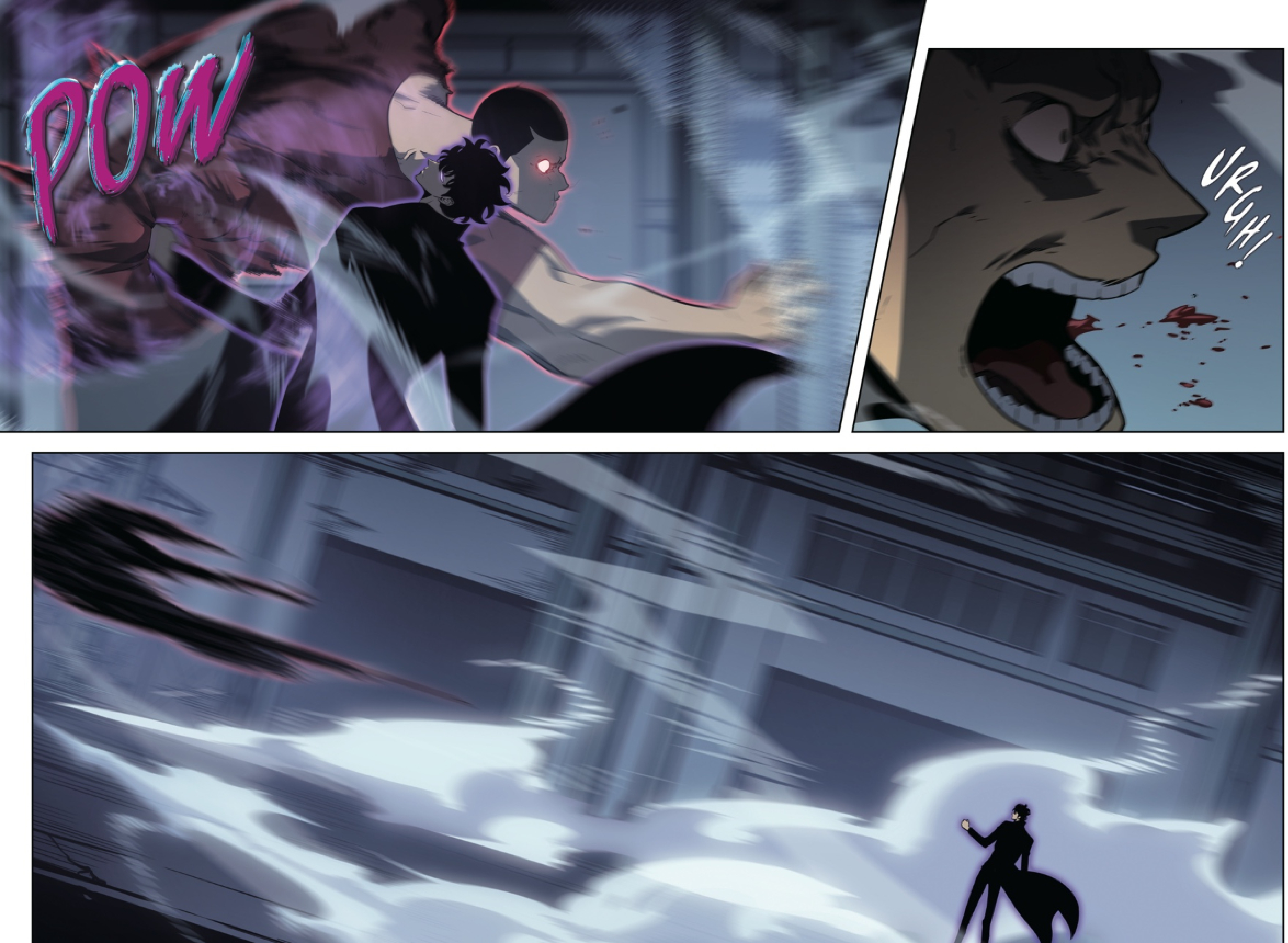
SMASH


I KNEW IT...
IT WAS YOU! YOU KILLED MY BROTHER DONGSUK HWANG, DIDN'T YOU?!

B-BOSS...

DON'T TALK.
DONGSOO HWANG...
DONGSUK HWANG... YOUNGER BROTHER...BE CAREFUL...
ANSWER ME!
DID YOU KILL MY BROTHER AND ALL HIS SQUAD MEMBERS?

GO ASK YOUR BROTHER.
TWITCH
WHOOSH


POW
URGH!

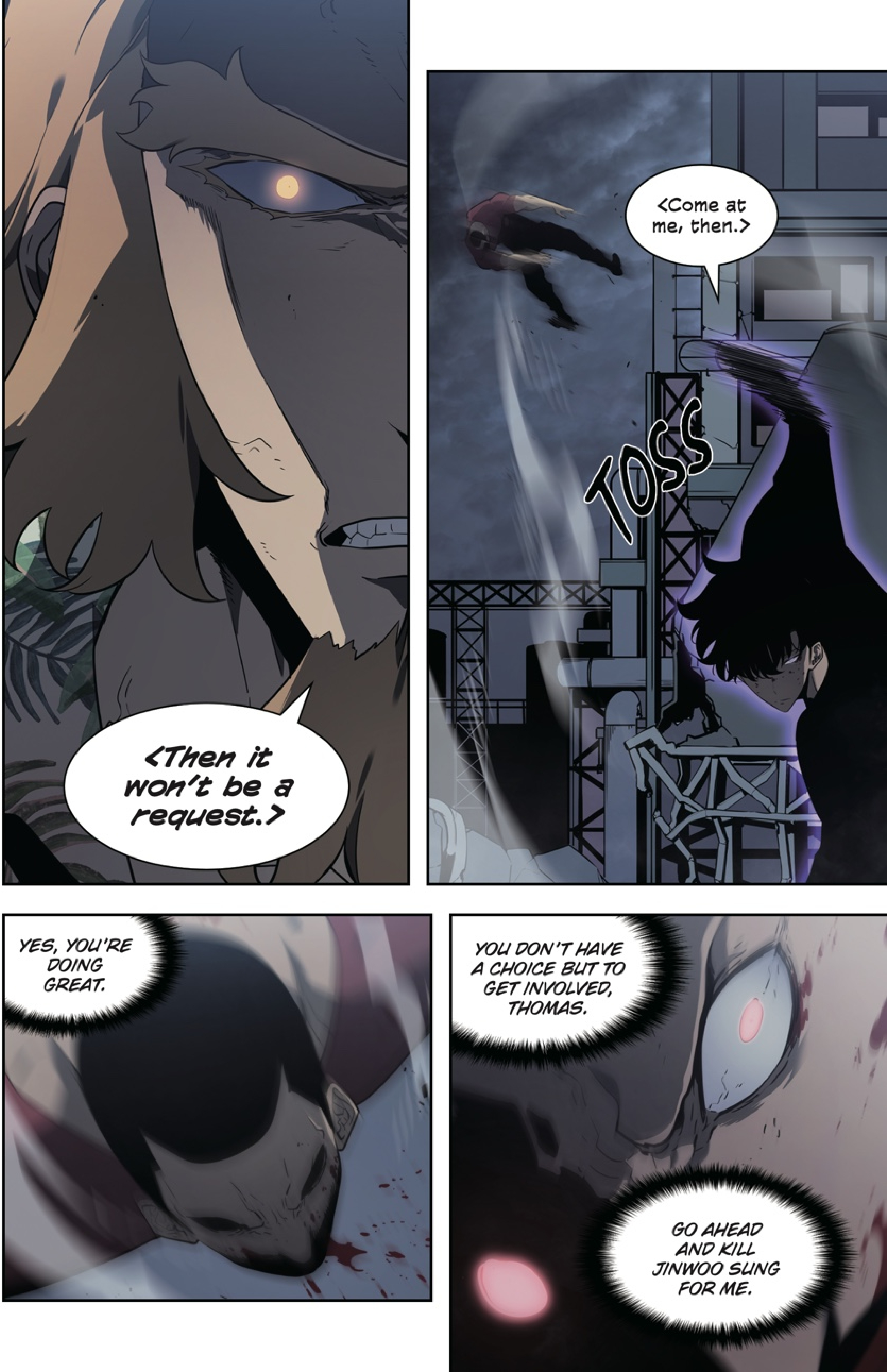
KA-
BOOM
CRASH
CRUMBLE

GRIT
!
SHWP

WHAM

WHAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
<Stop.>
THUD

<I told him not to do anything...>
<Is Dongsoo Hwang... still alive?>
<For now.>
<You understand enough English, so we should just talk. Let him walk away.>
<If you do, I'll pretend this didn't happen.>
<And if I say no?>


<Then it won't be a request.>
<Come at me, then.>
TOSS
YES, YOU'RE DOING GREAT.
YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE BUT TO GET INVOLVED, THOMAS.
GO AHEAD AND KILL JINWOO SUNG FOR ME.

KILL JINWOO SUNG, THOMAS!
<...By any chance, do you know who I am?>
<Who you are...>
<...is irrelevant.>
<He knows who I am, but he still...>

THOMAS WAS BORN TO A POOR IMMIGRANT FAMILY LIVING IN AN IMPOVERISHED NEIGHBORHOOD.
HE GREW UP WITH ENEMIES ALL AROUND HIM, BUT...
...HE WAS BLESSED WITH ONE THING—
OVERWHELMING PHYSICAL STRENGTH.
THE POWER TO LITERALLY STEP ON OTHER PEOPLE!
THOMAS DEMONSTRATED HIS STRENGTH TIME AND AGAIN.
AND SOON HE SAW HOW THE WAY PEOPLE TREATED HIM CHANGED.

POWER.
AUTHORITATIVE POWER.
FINANCIAL POWER.
PHYSICAL POWER.
SEIZING ALL THE POWERS IN THE WORLD, HE RULED LIKE A KING.
AND WHEN A DIFFERENT KIND OF POWER EMERGED, HE FINALLY HAD A CHANCE TO TRULY BECOME A KING.
HE CRUSHED EVERYONE IN HIS WAY.
HE MADE THOSE WHO LOOKED DOWN ON HIM BOW TO HIM.
PHYSICAL PROWESS WAS HIS TRUTH!

BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCE, THOMAS KNEW HOW TO TREAT THOSE WHO DON'T GET IN LINE.

<We're here!!>

<Hurry up!>

KA-BOOM

WHIIIISH
<Thomas!>
<Sir, are you all right?>

TMP
TMP
<Don't just stand there! Move!!>

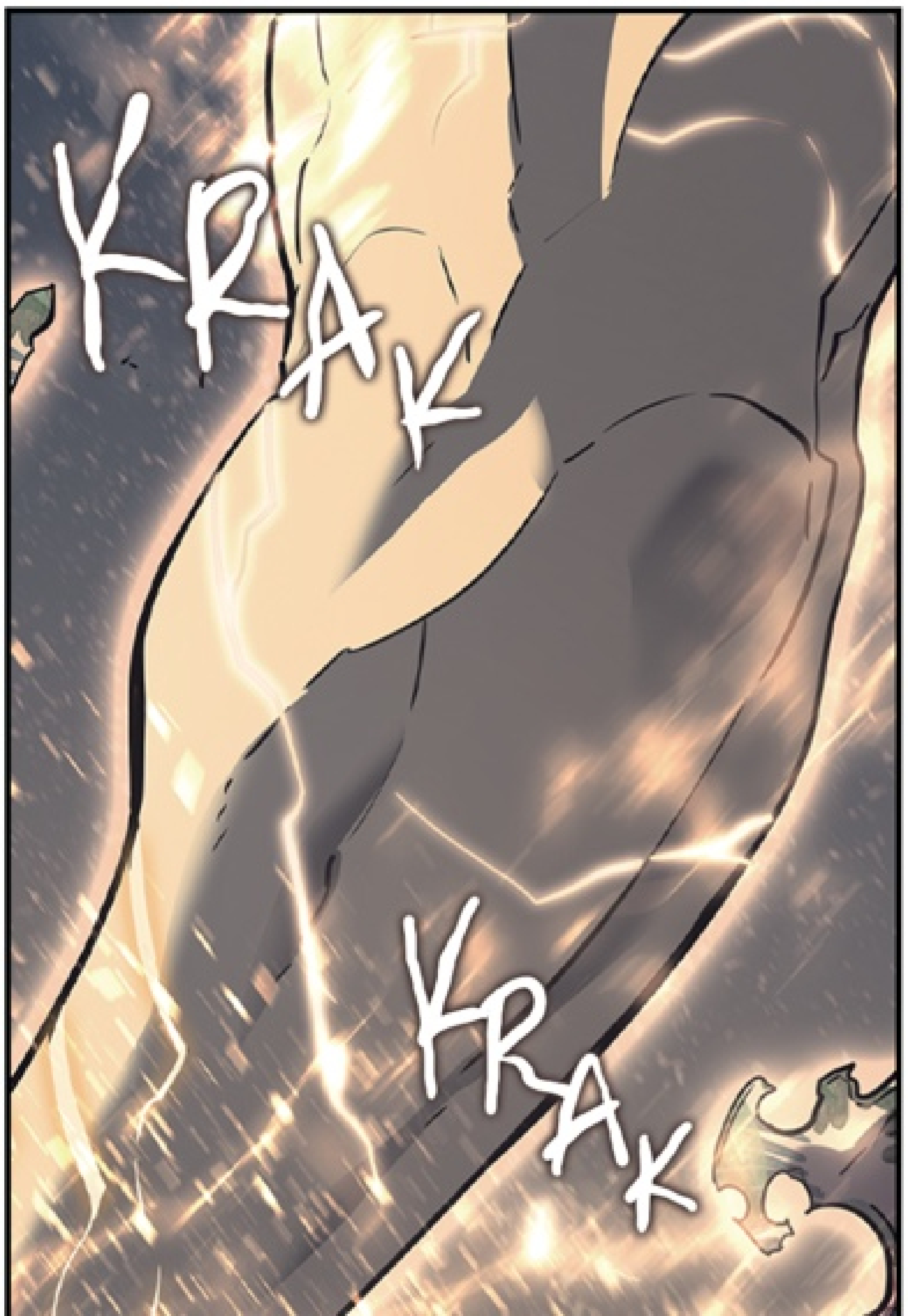
TAKE JINHO TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL.
MAKE SURE THEY DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO HELP HIM.

ZOOM

<Yes.>
<This looks like it'll be fun, doesn't it?>
<This no longer has any-thing to do with Dongsoo.>
<There's only one way to restore my broken pride.>
<I'll kill that disrespectful bastard...!>

<Admit your mistakes and stand down, and I'll let you live.>
<You dare...?!>

KRIIIIIK
<You'll regret this...>


KRAK
KRAK

STOMP

GO.
<Here they come.>

THUD
THUD
THUD
RUMBLE
<Shield expansion!>
SLAM
RUMBLE

RUU USH

FSHHH
WHOOSH

!
KRIK
VMMMM
KA-
BLAM

CRASH
WHOOOOSH
<They're no match for me.>

SLAM
WHUD

THUD

TMP

DASH
STOMP

<Get out of my way!>

BAM
<Where did he go?>
SHWE

KA-
POW
UWANG
FWIP

WHAM
<Do you think a national-level hunter is a joke?>
TMP
SHF

TELE-KINESIS?!
WHOOSH
WHISH
<Feel the difference in our powers and despair!>
VMMM

FALTER
SLAM

<What the...?!>
<Is he going to push me down like this? No, I feel like I'm tied down...>
<This bastard chose to attack even though he's being pulled toward me!>
THWACK
KOFF!

<I...>
<I'm bleeding?>

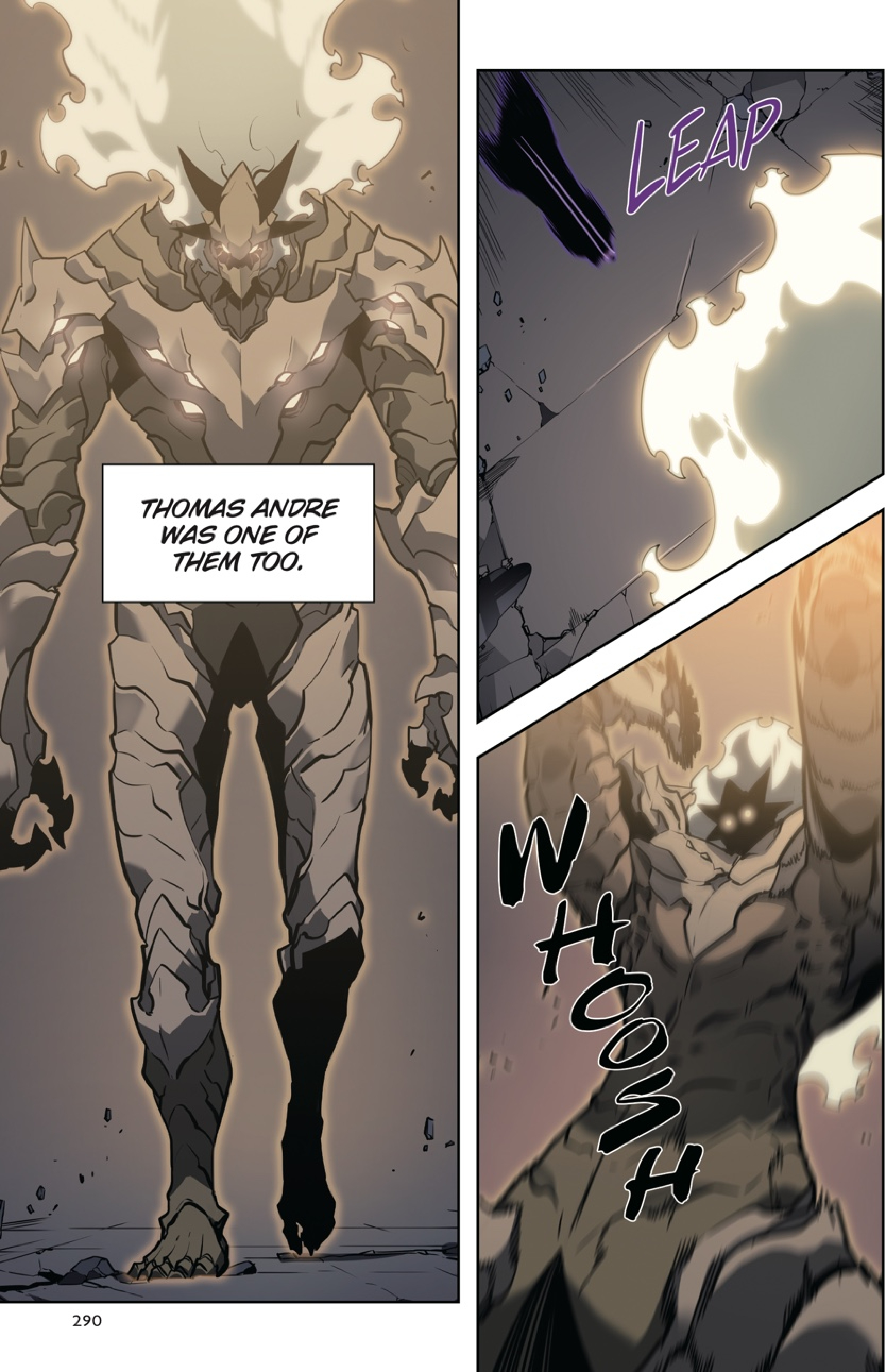
SKRRT
WHAT DID YOU TELL ME EARLIER?
<"Feel the difference in our powers and despair"?>

<Fine...>
<I'll stop looking down on you.>
KRIK

<Enforcement.>

VROOM
<Agent White, please tell me what's going on here.>
<There's no time to expl—>
<What's happened?>
<You may not sense it because you're an ordinary human, but...>
<...if we go any farther, we'll die.>

AT THAT MOMENT, JINWOO HAD A THOUGHT.
FOUR PEOPLE HAD BORROWED THE RULERS' POWERS.
PERHAPS THOSE FIVE HUNTERS WHO SURVIVED KAMISH'S RAID—
IN OTHER WORDS, THE FOUR REMAINING NATIONAL-LEVEL HUNTERS MIGHT BE THE ONES WHO DID.
SLAM


THOMAS ANDRE WAS ONE OF THEM TOO.
LEAP
WHOOSH

<DEMOLISH.>
WHAM
KA-BOOOOM

RUMBLE
<CAPTURE.>

<Get away from the guild master!!>
<Escape!>

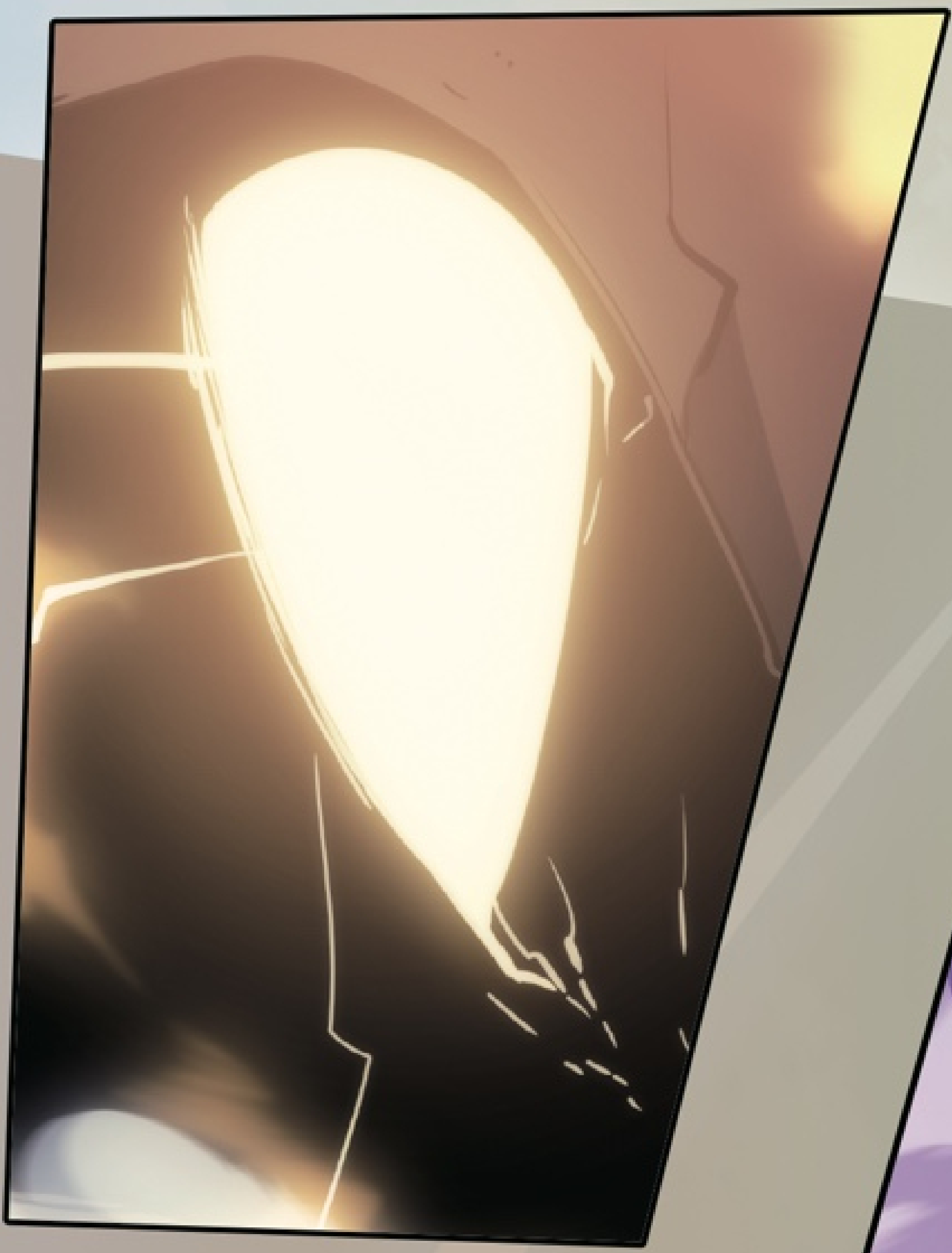
THAT WAS A MASSIVE GRAVITATIONAL PULL. LIKE A BLACK HOLE.
IF I HADN'T HAD RULER'S AUTHORITY, I WOULD'VE BEEN DRAWN INTO IT.
FWOOSH

SMASH

CRUMBLE

FSHHH

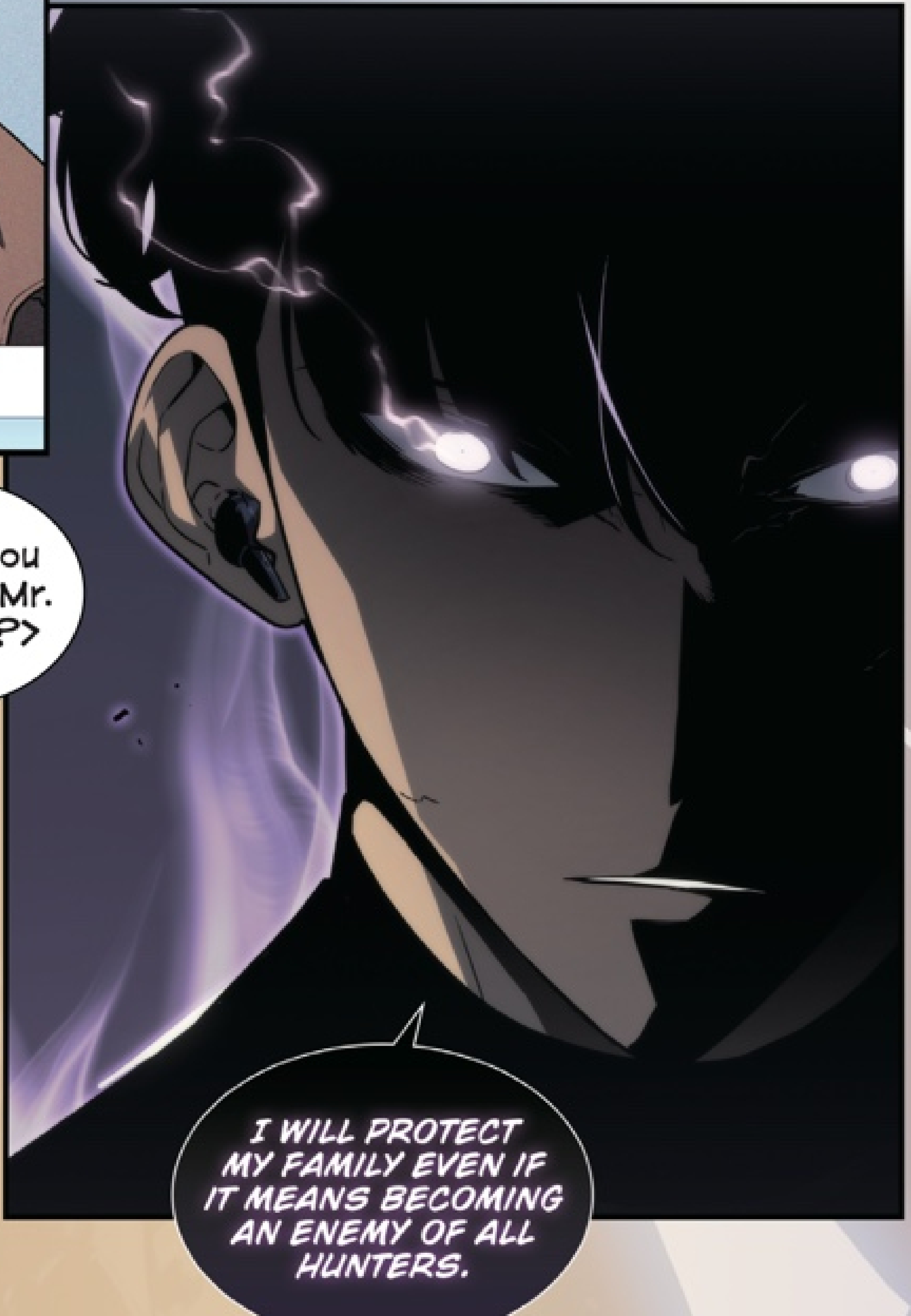
<I won't miss this time.>
HWOOO
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 11...



THE ALL-OUT BATTLE AGAINST THOMAS ANDRE!

WHO WILL BE THE LAST WARRIOR STANDING?

WANTED: ILHWAN SUNG!
SUSPECTED OF BEING A MAGIC BEAST!



ZHIGANG LIU QUESTIONS WHAT JINWOO WILL DO IF IT TRULY IS ILHWAN!

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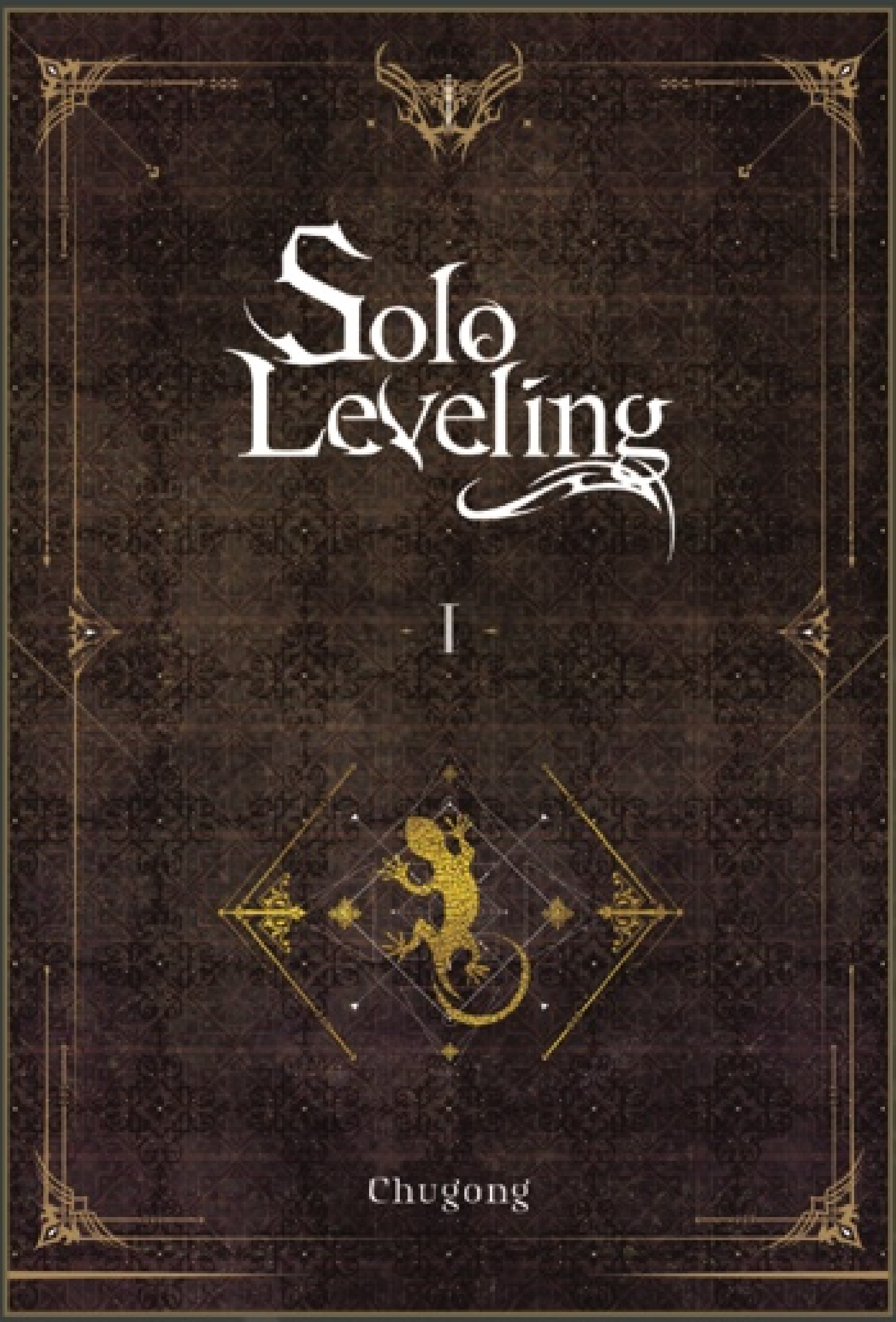

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